

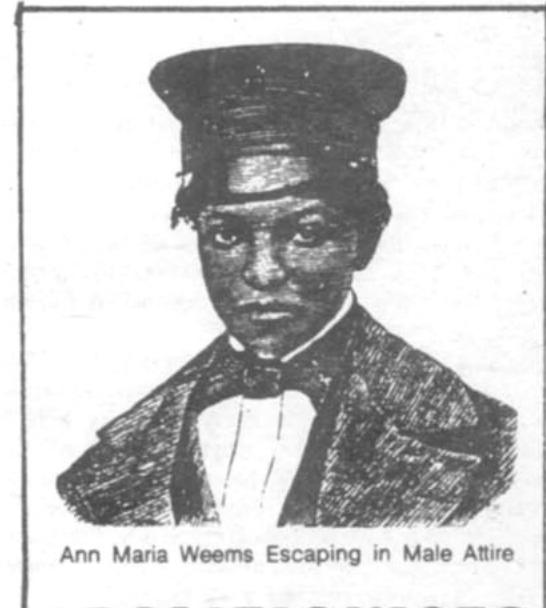
The DC Gazette

VOL XIII NR 4

April 1982

Mandatory Sentencing:

Fake War on Crime



**ABOLITIONISTS
IN DC**

THE BEST MAYORAL CANDIDATES

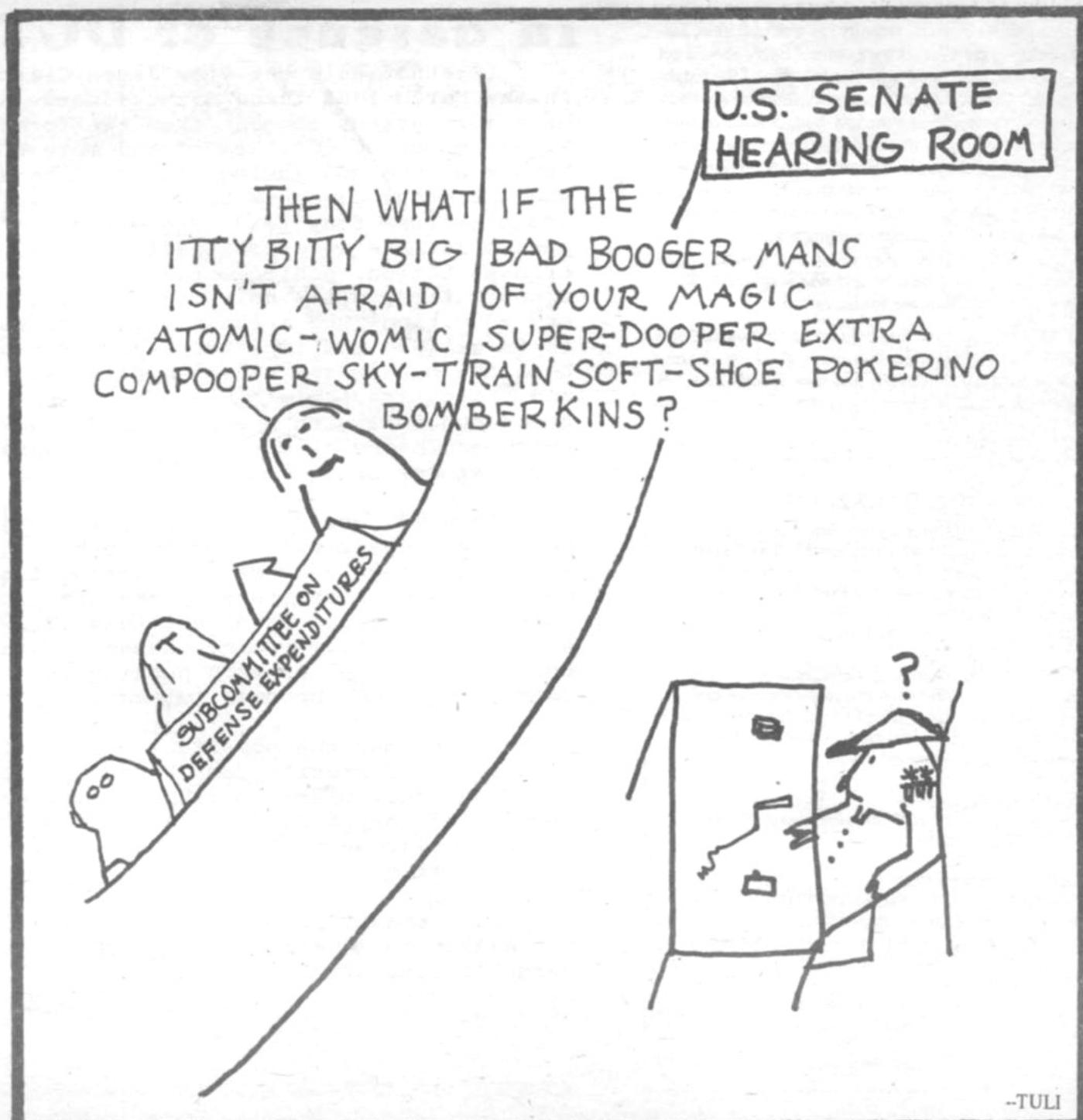
**Enterprise
zones**

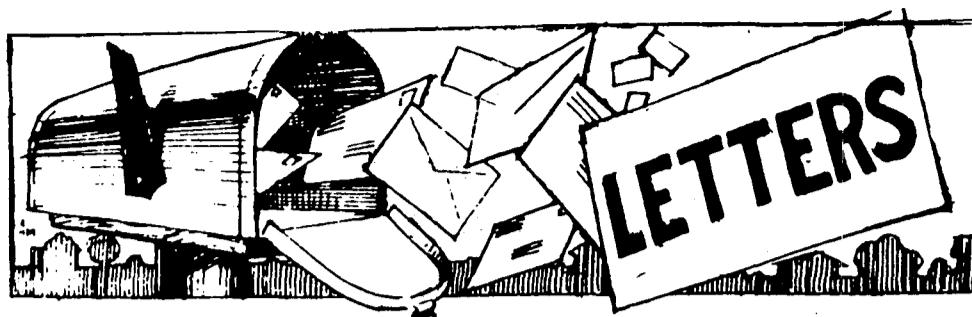
**Where do
nuke plants
go when
they die?**

**Barry vs.
home rule**

**What a
Republican
would do
as mayor**

Apple Pie





Tout talk

Just received my *Gazette* yesterday and am taking you up on your offer on p. 2 to "offer well-documented arguments why your 'tout sheet' is off-the-wall."

(1) I think most *Gaz.* readers would blank out John Ray's "?" on selling the city out to special interests after reading about his acceptance of \$19,000 (10% of his campaign war chest) from Dominic Antonelli & Friends on the page after the "tout sheet."

(2) Barry's check on crime is a bit questionable. What has he done except what some would consider sending out campaign literature in everybody's tax bills?! Neighborhood Watch - Okay, maybe. The Police Dept. is in disarray; they don't even have first aid kits, rumor has it. Many citizens, furthermore, are tempted to believe that all the police have done about crime is beat up Guardian Angels who have tried to bring real community-oriented crime solutions that work to D.C.

(3) Betty Ann Kane and John Ray both deserve at least one check for their mandatory sentencing efforts. Whether you like mandatory sentencing or not, you cannot deny them credit for their tenacity in pushing for it, even to the point of Ray pushing for a referendum, while others have sat back and did nothing about crime or devoted their energies to other political issues. Barry, on the other hand, does stuff like going on TV last May saying, he's going to get better street lighting for all D.C. to deter crime, then turns around and freezes the street lighting dept.'s budget.

(4) I was appalled by the "No difference" on Statehood and Home rule for all the candidates. Wilson and Jarvis are *against* Statehood by their own admissions; Wilson derides it, even recently, as a stupid idea; Jarvis thinks its "time has not yet come." Barry should get one check on Statehood now that he's part of the Establishment. Though his early support cannot be doubted, one wonders after seeing the low-budget affair at Dunbar for the delegate installation, replete with *supermarket-bought packaged* cookies at the reception afterwards! Barry gave the convention an in-use jr.-h.s. in the middle of the slum far from the hub of the transit system for the Convention's meeting place. They wisely *rejected* it for UDC. Ray deserves 2 checks; Kane 3; Ray let his name be used and was supportive; Kane was out front during the Initiative.

(5) It's okay to give Barry 2 checks for housing only if you believe that public housing is good, ignore how poverty tenants rip it apart, and how it adds to neighborhood blight and crime, and if you believe rent con-

trol doesn't financially strap landlords, create disincentives to fix up property, and foster housing shortages by messing with natural market forces.

Otherwise the "tout sheet" looks good; keep up the good work!

PS: Why give Betty Ann Kane a hard time for proposing \$10,000 for the convention? She said \$10,000 with *adequate in-kind support*. That to me means detailing 20-30 persons, full access to all D.C. Government Services (typing, printing, etc.), and full access to D.C. Govt. communications service for press releases, news conferences, etc. It does *not* mean the 8 warm bodies Barry managed to squeeze out of the D.C. Gov't he's RIF'd into oblivion.

DINO JOSEPH DRUDI
Brookland, DC

Teaching cops

My sister—a University of the District of Columbia (UDC) student—dates a police officer here in Washington. The other day we were talking about college expenses and my sister's boyfriend said that he did not have to worry about a thing. His tuition and books at the American University (AU) are paid for by the police de-

partment that is, by us the taxpayers. I was shocked and confused, also because I have read recently about the astronomical increases in tuition at AU.

First of all, with all the budget cuts, lack of training programs for the unemployed, etc., what are we doing sending the cops to the second most expensive university in town?

Second, don't the mayor and the police chief have any pride in UDC? It's a fine school, growing every day. Why is it not good enough for the cops?

Third, shouldn't public employees who want an education at the public's expense have to go to public-supported university?

Finally, it seems to me that the cops would get a much better education meeting the real people who live in DC by going to UDC than to AU, a play school for the rich from out of town.

What do the Mayor and the Police Chief have to say about this? Why are they ashamed of UDC? Why should we have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in tuition when the cops could get the same or better education at cheaper UDC?

B.J.
Washington DC

In defence of DOT . . .

I cannot help but view James Clark's editorial "Life at DOT" in the March 1982 issue with sadness. At one point it appears to be a sour grapes comment from the former Acting Director on the direction of DC DOT. Second and more importantly, however, it brings up the continuing concern I have of the versatility of engineers and planners to get the most productivity out of organizations they lead. History and modern management literature points out the need for traditionally engineering fields such as transportation, public works, utilities, etc. to broaden their organizations with individuals with varied background experience and education. One area we engineers have previously fallen down is in selling the importance of our programs and in educating both the public and public officials. This requires intelligent and articulate individuals who can both administer and plan programs and deal with the public on a day to day basis, areas in which engineers generally have not excelled by either education and training or inclination.

As a professional engineer with 15 years of experience in the direct delivery of public works, utilities, transportation and maintenance service contracting I have found considerable more success is obtained by organizations with individuals who possess varied and diverse levels of expertise. Public officials should continually remind themselves that our business is service to the public and as such getting the most from our limited and decreasing funds becomes imperative.

I have had the opportunity since last summer to work as a member of a community Task Force with DC DOT and specifically the individual Mr. Clark so lightly dismisses as not expert. The members of the DC DOT team are not only dedicated and professional public servants but in my estimation getting the job done very expertly.

In summary, I applaud Mr. Thomas Downs, DC DOT Director, for his enlightened leadership and chastise Mr. Clark for both his parochial and obsolete thinking.

A R GIANCOLA, PE
Washington DC

THE DC GAZETTE

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Deadline for editorial and advertising matter: 15th of the month.

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Words on Wise

Thank you, DC Gazette, for printing the letter of Raymond Wise concerning the US, USSR and world peace. His rational approach and lack of a Haig-Weinberger hate-conditioning is refreshing. It is not an unreasonable assumption that some of the USSR leadership might well be willing to listen to sincere overtures of cooperation.

May I quote two writers in publications from Britain? One is Jonathan Steele in the *Guardian*:

"The more the West tries to put pressure on Moscow, the less it is helping Poland. The only sensible course, even in these days of bitter disappointment for Poland, is a radical and lasting shift in western policy towards Russia, away from blind contempt and perpetual confrontation."

The other is E.P. Thompson in the *New Statesman*, writing a letter to an anti-Soviet dissident in Czechoslovakia:

"The more hawkish and aggressive Western advisors are another matter again: they would like the combatants for human rights in Eastern Europe to make all the trouble for their rulers that they can. They want you to suffer, and to suffer more. This confirms their ideology and allows the military budgets to swell."

"But they will not help you. They do not wish you to win your contests for human rights, because this would weaken their own ideological presuppositions. They wish you to trade your suffering and despair, forever, into the coinage of the Cold War. The only help which they will bring you will be terminal: a European theatre war."

BOB JONES
Washington, DC

DC self determination

Regarding your well-put reprint in your February issues, "Does the *Post* Serve Us?" have you paid much attention to the efforts of the Coalition for D.C. Self-Determination to gain ratification of the D.C. Voting Rights Amendment? The only mention in the February issue was in Ruth Dixon's statement as candidate for Council member from Ward 3.

Ten states have already ratified the amendment—nearby Maryland and faraway Oregon among them. Virginia has not. Could you in your next issue draw the attention of people who live and work here and pay federal taxes here, to the need for their help in obtaining voting representation for themselves in Congress by contacting and educating friends, relatives, newspapers and legislators in the states still necessary for ratification by August 1985? We need 28 more states behind us.

Those states which have ratified so far are: Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon and Wisconsin. Notes of appreciation to contacts in those states are in order, too.

MARY WALLEN
Washington DC

Crime and Mayor Barry

I was surprised to see you list as an achievement of the Barry Administration: "The number of drug arrests have been doubled."

In the same issue you noted that "Major crime went up about 7 percent in 1981 according to the most recent crime statistics. Robberies were a big factor in the increase, rising 17 percent. Rapes were down 7 percent, homicides up 13%, aggravated assaults up 7 percent, burglaries up four percent, larcenies up 5 per cent, and auto theft up five percent."

Many analysts believe that about 50 percent of urban crimes against property are made to acquire money

to buy drugs at black market prices. If drugs were readily available in safe, clean, pure and measured doses from pharmacies, they would be cheap enough that such theft would be unnecessary (as in Great Britain). The involvement of organized crime (and the profits to them) would be eliminated, and police resources could be directed against such real crimes as rape, homicide, battery, etc.

Since almost the only category of crime for which you show a *decrease* (rape) is the one arguably least related to drug prohibition, one may reasonably suspect that Mayor Barry's war against the freedom of individual drug users to live their own lives (and the right of parents, churches, community groups, etc. to decide exactly what they will teach their followers and children about drug use) is responsible for much of the increase in crime.

BRUCE MAJORS
Students for a Libertarian Society

CITY TALK

And now, two candidates you haven't heard from...



James Champagne

From James Champagne, a Republican candidate for mayor:

As the mayoral election of 1982 approaches, the residents of the city find that all is not well. Instead of leadership, we are offered rhetoric. Instead of open debate and agreed upon policies, we are treated to polemics and confusion. The results have been fatal.

Unemployment in our city hovers at 10 percent. In particular, youth unemployment among blacks exceeds 40 percent—an unacceptable and depressing level.

The cost of living in the nation's capital continues to escalate rapidly, unimpeded by reasonable economic policies. Taxes—personal, business and property—are terribly burdensome.

The city budget moves from one crisis to another. Our debt burden threatens to push us to the brink of insolvency. And the city has been unable to resolve its pension funding problems.

As ever, the city looks to the Congress for fiscal relief. Meanwhile, our Democratic city officials approach the Congress with an attitude of confrontation. At the same time, the leadership of this city continually fails to demonstrate to the Congress that Washington can be an efficiently run and safe modern metropolitan entity.

The number of crimes committed daily in Washington is on the increase. Compared with statistics of three and one-half years ago, our citizens are certainly less safe against homicide, rape, robbery and other serious offenses. In January, 1978, when the city's second elected Democratic mayor took office, the daily average crime rate was 118.6 offenses. In June of last year, the rate was 183.8 and growing. The last time the daily average crime rate exceeded 180 was November, 1971. On a year-to-year basis, a similar trend exists. The daily crime index grew from 139.6 in 1978 to 154.6 in 1979 and to 174.0 in 1980.

Our schools remain expensive to run with only a mini-

mum of return and a modicum of success. To be sure, the problems facing our school system are many and are difficult to solve. Poverty and the apparent lack of student and parental interest are not easy hurdles. Yet, they are not insurmountable.

Many Washingtonians feel that elected city officials, as well as teaching professionals and school administrators have placed unwarranted emphasis on the school budget. Instead of a special awareness of student needs and accomplishments, there is an indeterminable debate about money. In the process, young people and their education are all too often forgotten.

It might surprise some to know that the city already has a school budget that offers teachers' salaries which compare favorably with those paid in other cities and/or counties. The average salary for a classroom teacher in the District of Columbia during 1980-81 was nearly \$23,000. This figure is greater than the salaries offered in a dozen other large cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Houston and Milwaukee. In fact, the average teacher salary in Washington is almost \$6,500 more than in Baltimore and exceeds the average salary in Alexandria, Fairfax County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

Each year also, the school budget increases while pupil enrollment continues to decline. In 1970, budget appropriations for D.C. schools amounted to \$134 million. Student enrollment at that time was approximately 150,000. In 1980, the budget had escalated to \$244 million, while the number of pupils fell to 100,000.

Part of the problem is tenure. In 1970, the number of teachers on tenure was less than 60 percent. Ten years later, the District has almost 90 percent of its professional personnel (not including administrators) on permanent tenure. Not only is tenure costly in terms of dollars; too many of our tenured teachers need to be retrained and made aware of improved classroom techniques. They also need to be brought up to date on findings in science, history and other fields of study.

The city's budgetary problems go far beyond the school funding issue. Indeed, a major failing of both current and past administrations has been the inability to resist borrowing money from the federal government. Certainly, the practice of borrowing funds for capital improvements and other perceived needs started before we had an elected mayor. But fiscal responsibility demands the curtailment and ultimate cessation of this practice. To continue the practice only delays the inevitable day of reckoning, siphons money away from needed programs and contributes to higher tax assessments.

In fiscal year 1982, the city is obliged to pay \$158 million for loans and interest owed to the federal government. Even with that payment, the outstanding balance will be over \$1.5 billion. Over the next 35 years, the total payment on *existing* loan obligations will amount to \$5.3 billion—more than \$3.3 billion of which will be interest. In the face of this, the current Democratic administration is seeking authority to enter the private bond market to borrow even more money.

The full effect of this particular fiscal policy can be seen in the unfavorable comparison of this city's expenditures with those of other large cities. In 1978, the District spent more than five percent of its total budget for interest on its general debt. That \$100 million spent on debt interest was four times the amount spent on sanitation, four times the amount spent on parks and recreation, almost three times the amount spent on housing and urban development and nearly twice the amount spent for fire protection or highways.

By comparison, our neighbor Baltimore in 1978 spent two percent of its budget for interest on its general debt or only one-fifth of the amount that city spent for highways and considerably less than the amount spent on either parks and recreation, or housing and urban development or fire protection.

Other cities such as San Francisco, St. Louis and Milwaukee spent less than three percent of their total budget for interest on their general debt.

Other interesting budget comparisons abound. Back in 1975, when the population of Washington was 710,000, city expenditures were \$1.5 billion. In that same year, Houston had a population of 1,325,000—nearly twice that of the District—but expen-

ditures totaled only \$369 million. In other words, Houston provided for twice the people at only 25 percent of the cost. Meanwhile, in 1980, the population of Washington decreased to 638,000, but expenditures went up by nearly half a billion dollars.

In spite of these economic facts, we are told that "Washington is on the grow." We must seriously ask, however, at what price? And more importantly, who pays?

Homeowners and apartment dwellers will pay. While it is true that real estate development is booming in Washington, D.C., its direction points to a city of offices and hotels and a few high priced condominiums. Increasingly, the downtown business area resembles a sterile and vacated concrete row after dark. Unabated, this policy runs the risk of depopulating our city as more and more of our limited usable land is given over to expensive office space and high cost lodgings for transients. Already, these city policies that have encouraged the rise of luxurious commercial accommodations have unwittingly squeezed out some homeowners as well as many apartment dwellers.

So, small businessmen will also pay...or will they? From 1968 to 1978, more than 1,500 businesses in the retail goods and services sector left the District of Columbia. That trend continues under the current administration. One recent study shows that out of 246 firms engaged in construction, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, transportation, insurance and communications with sales of over \$1.1 billion, an annual payroll of \$440 million and 13,500 employees, nearly 50 percent are considering moving out of the District. The reasons for contemplating a move out of Washington are numerous, but the survey confirms a very poor opinion of the management of the District government and cites a lack of incentives for business and the existence of what businessmen feel is an antibusiness attitude on the part of local government.

Moreover, business taxes in the District are the highest of any jurisdiction from Richmond to Baltimore. Even those businesses that choose to remain are in constant economic peril, forced to compete with businesses in surrounding communities where the sales tax, unemploy-

ment insurance and workers' compensation are considerably lower.

The long term effects of these trends are painfully clear to taxpayers in the District. Simply put, an ever decreasing number of people are supporting an ever increasing budget. This is particularly true of those who continue to progress up the income scale. According to D.C. budget documents, income tax payments compare favorably with the average for the nation's 30 largest cities *but only* at the \$7,500 yearly income level. At \$15,000 per year, D.C. income tax is 33 percent greater than the average for the 30 largest cities. At \$22,500 it is 40 percent greater and at the \$30,000 to \$50,000 it is 45 percent higher than the average for the 30 largest metropolitan jurisdictions.

Translating these figures into dollar terms, a four member family in Washington, D.C. whose income is \$7,500 pays only \$88 in income tax. A family of four with an income of \$30,000 pays \$1,640 in income tax. Put another way, the \$30,000 family earns four times as much income but pays 20 times as much taxes on that amount. If a family earns \$40,000, the tax burden is 30 times greater than that paid by the family earning \$7,500. And a \$50,000 yearly income means a tax burden 40 times greater.

Small wonder that individual income tax in Washington, D.C. is the single greatest source of tax revenue.

Yet too many citizens feel—and rightly so—that we are not getting our money's worth. Our roads are badly in need of repair. The rodent population is a significant health menace. And the cockroach is on the verge of becoming the city mascot by dint of its ubiquity.

Meanwhile, tall buildings—usually empty on weekends—encroach on our neighborhoods. And in spite of this building boom in downtown Washington (the Democratic mayor promises us that it is starting to extend into other parts of the city), quality rental accommodations for both the poor and the middle class are constantly in short supply. This type of milieu is fertile ground for numerous social ills. For example, drug abuse and prostitution have become highly visible problems defacing the city's image and instilling fear in many of its residents.

The bottom line is that while it is expensive to live here, it is not easy to experience quality living even if you are willing and able to pay the price. Indeed, for many residents it is impossible. Basic needs such as housing, clothing, food, a sense of neighborhood, a healthy environment in which our children can grow, and personal safety—especially for the elderly—are either beyond the means of ordinary people or consume so much of the family budget that little is left for anything else.

Unfortunately, the prospects for the future seem equally disappointing—unless we can bring order and purpose to District government.

In a city whose expenditures will soon exceed \$2 billion, it is unacceptable that there is widespread substandard housing. It is unacceptable that people from every income level live in fear. It is unacceptable that the current Democratic political leaders in this city are so at odds with themselves that city taxpayers are unsure of not only who stands for what policy, but also how government policies will affect their future.

It is also unacceptable that the current Democratic leadership in this city has failed to successfully utilize computer technology even in such mundane areas as water bills. Moreover, that same leadership has been unable to put forth a timely and reasonable plan for introducing a multi-use cable television system.

Finally, it is unacceptable for city government to continue to act in a manner that is unresponsive to the majority of its citizens and all too often discourteous to them. To continue to act as if taxpayers are just another source of revenue will only serve to exacerbate the resentment, the apathy, the skepticism and the cynicism that characterizes all too many D.C. residents.

The District of Columbia deserves a better image than the current Democratic administration has given it. It is the nation's capital. It should be the nation's showplace city, not just for the tourists who visit it, but also for the people who live here. And it can be, if people are willing to become involved and change the direction in which it is heading.

The answers to the problems confronting our city might be elusive, but they do exist. They exist in new ideas and renewed confidence. They currently lack only a starting point.

The positions I develop in the coming weeks will provide a basic approach for coming to grips with the city's complex problems. The positions will closely reflect, but will not be limited to, concepts expressed in the 1980 Republican Party platform. They will not represent a

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detailed program formula for righting every ill facing the city and its people. They will, however, call into question a number of existing programs and policies supported by elected Democrats in this city. For instance, I believe that the city government can be reduced in real terms. I believe also that the city's tax structure can be overhauled and made more equitable without adversely affecting the city's future.

Hopefully what I have in mind will engender spirited public debate. In any case, the approaches which I am developing will offer alternatives to the present chaotic and ineffective policies of the current Democratic leaders.

In the ensuing debate regarding these alternatives and whatever counter proposals other candidates might offer, there should emerge a clearer vision of what Washingtonians want for Washington. At a bare minimum, the results of the next mayoral election should then reflect the opinions of a better informed electorate who will have exercised their franchise in a meaningful way and who will thereby have been involved in the future that is uniquely Washington, D.C.

Dennis Sabin

From Dennis Sabin, the publisher of *Met Personals*, who is running for mayor. Here he answers some of his own questions:

You're not a politician. Why are you running for mayor?

That's really the point. Local government in DC is politics, perhaps more than any other major city in the country. Every four years, the city's elected officials address themselves to the city's problems, essentially because there's an election going on, and they need to sound good. But it's all bullshit. Between elections, nothing really happens, except that the local media is filled with revelations of incompetence, corruption, and what look like inside deals. After years of stalling on cable TV in the city, and that's a real scandal since we are one of the last major cities in the U.S. to lack a potentially revolutionary communications form, the council has finally acted. Why? Is it because an election is in the offing? Where was the mayor's leadership? After years of outrageous real estate practices by the city in connection with the land it holds, there is suddenly news about bullshit deadlines that our politically powerful private developers have to meet, and suddenly new, higher prices that they have to pay. This after millions of dollars have been lost and can't be gotten again. Why? Because an election is close? Where has the mayor been for four years? Why is the city suddenly plastered with these laughable "DC on the Grow" stickers? It's press garbage, posturing, crap. In the meantime, the city election that has brought it all on will be the same mess elections have always been because the city agency that runs the computer lists of voters has yet again proven itself incompetent. Why should we put up with this? Because politics belongs to these guys? I don't think it does. I've been fighting city hall for years, and I think I can do it better from the inside. That's the point of being the sort of mayor I'll be. I intend to fight our city hall even while I'm in office.

So, what is it you know about politics, anyway? Or about running a city? You publish what you like to call—euphemistically—"uncensored" publications. What kind of preparation is that?

Okay, I publish *Met Forum*, which is distinguished by its "health services" ads. These happen to be the same ads that ran in the *Star*, the same ads that run in the phone book. If I'm guilty of something, so are they. *Met Forum* is an outspoken newspaper that runs a variety of stories, just the kind that are outside Washington's mainstream power structure thinking, which, if you want to know the truth, is among the dullest, least imaginative thinking in the country. The embarrassing truth of the matter is that Washington—which I love, that's why I live here, and that's why I'm running for mayor—is a dull city because it's run by dull people. Terribly dull people, everywhere from the current mayor to the police to the board of trade to the *Post*. They're all dull people with dull ideas, and we deserve better. Do you think for a minute that the *Post* would have reacted in a friendly way to the sort of good-time stunt the mayor of Baltimore pulled when he jumped into the Aquarium fish tank when the new Aquarium failed to open on schedule? Do you think that the city's powerful characters would welcome the kind of lively politics that one is seeing in the current New York City mayor's race? No, because they don't welcome anything here, except the kind of thinking that

has already put our town in the spot it is. Is this the kind of town where you can walk up to cop and talk to him in a friendly way? Or where a cop will talk to you, unless to tell you you've broken the law? Or where you want to educate your kids? The city's awful, at that level, full of awful buildings, awful plans, and awful officials. It somehow has lost the trust and confidence of every group. Blacks think they're being pushed out of town with the city's complicity. Whites think the city is indifferent to them. Businesses think they're better off in the suburbs. Professionals are moving their offices out of the city. The voting rights amendment is dead. What is it we're getting out of our professional politicians, anyway? Yet the *Post*, which has repeatedly disgraced itself in the past year, can look down its establishment nose at me because I'm coming at this as an outsider.

Well, you've got to have some credentials, don't you?

I have credentials. Aside from my role in the city as an editor, businessman, publisher, and so forth, I spent years as a sociologist studying cities and their people. Eight years ago, when I was a university professor, I published a study I called, *The Working Poor*. That's a familiar term now for the people I was writing about, but the term is mine. It's one of several published studies I did when pursuing that field. I understand the forces at work in the city, and the people who are trying to deal with them on a daily level, from a much more significant point of view than those people whose contact with the citizens is posturing before them now and then.

So what can you possibly hope you can do about it? Do you have some way to get citizens and police to talk to each other more?

There are a world of changes I'd make to get rid of the adversary relationship between police and people. The whole range of what our law enforcement priorities should be, must be, altered, changes that would be good for the city's people as tax-payers, as people in need of police protection, and just as people who share the streets with police. The police themselves could benefit. Morale on the force is terrible these days, and these things are interconnected. What they've been trying to do—and this shows that the city is perfectly aware of the problem—is getting police to give out cards with basketball players' pictures on them, and kids who collect enough of them go to games. It's nice, but it's pathetic, too. It doesn't begin to attack the problem. Police have to be used to prevent crime, and not to harass and entrap people who are not harming others. Officers should be arresting people only when there is, or is likely to be, a complainant who has been demonstrably injured, except for homicide, of course. We ought to find out if there's an alternative to the current waste of thousands of hours of law enforcement on matters like street solicitation, which more enlightened communities all over the world recognize can be controlled and regulated and turned into tax revenues. We ought to use jails as a matter of last resort for people dangerous to themselves and society, and not as a tool of Calvinist retribution. More than half the women in the DC Jail are no threat to anybody, and I don't particularly want to pay for their meals and care, or for the time of cops, prosecutors, guards and all the rest that goes with this circus.

You're talking about prostitutes?

Yes. The city's going to throw away its Calvinist and Puritan outlook on gambling, isn't it? Why? Because it thinks it to be in its interest. How much money has been crossing the line into Maryland for years? I'll tell you something that makes even more sense, and that is to get the government *out* of the gambling business, rather than getting into it this way. And the reason is that this kind of behavior is not the government's business. It's there to administer the city's affairs, not to become involved in them this way. If we want gambling, we ought to allow private business to take it up. Morals are none of government's business, and it shouldn't become the state's business when the state thinks a buck can be made. I favor a consistent attitude: let the city tax and regulate, and not set itself up as a moral arbiter.

Do you take the same libertarian attitude toward guns?

What the city ought to do about guns is to take the lead in reducing what is nothing less than an arms race between it and its citizens. This is delicate, but not hopeless. The Civilian Complaint Review Board has identified many situations where the use of police force may be a threat to law-abiding citizens. When a scout car flags you down to tell you your tail light is out, the cop at your car window has his hand on his gun. He's scared too, but it's not exactly the kind of public interchange that engenders mutual good will. If the city wants to inflict severe penalties for possessing firearms, it must re-

duce the kind of force its own police use. But not at the expense of making the cops sitting ducks, of course. If we're going to give the police greater enforcement powers, then we need simultaneous citizen oversight. Somebody must take the lead to reduce the antagonism that currently exists on every side. That's the kind of leadership we don't have. In Europe, there are fewer weapons in all hands, and a lot fewer innocent people are victimized.

Do you think that city government is doing a good job anywhere?

Do you? Does anybody? People dislike, distrust, and laugh at the city government. But what do you expect? If I had a business where I doubled something like parking tickets after 15 days of non-payment, what would the people who dealt with me think? That I was ethical? That I was on their side? City governments constantly do things to harass their citizens, things that would probably be considered illegal if the private sector tried it. I'd work as mayor to change this relationship with the citizenry.

Is that going to give anybody a job?

These problems simply are not separate, they are all intertwined. Announcing job programs of the kind where you call businesses and beg them to give summer work to unskilled teenagers are inadequate, to put it mildly, to the scope of the whole matter. Anyway, the city has always made a mess even of that. Barry defended the enlargement of the Hilton on the basis of getting more job for unskilled workers, even though it meant the de-

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struction of hundreds of people's apartment homes, and the demolition of a place like the Wyoming, an irreplaceable example of the city's heritage. He's always behind the massive redevelopment schemes of the big developers here, even though it throws the little merchants of the city out, and creates real estate situations where only nationally backed chains and franchises can hope to make a go of it. There's no sense of balance at all. DC doesn't seem to know where it's going at all, just jerking forward as it's led by the nose. The city has to get control of that situation. We have to look at how our zoning practices affect business, how our licensing affects businessmen. That's where jobs come from, you know. Businesses. And more and more of them feel that the city wants only to soak them. Did DC know that Sears was going to put of Northeast? Does it know what kind of skills the business community needs? What kind of incentives will help *all* of DC's business, and therefore result in jobs? We know how to give incentives to people like Oliver Carr. We close alleys for him, and tear down our oldest private buildings, like Rhodes Tavern and the Old Ebbitt Grill — exactly the kind of thing that gives downtown a little spice and variety, historically, architecturally, and in terms of services — but we've done nothing to work with the business community to establish its confidence in the city, and to help it give the city what it needs. I'll tell you what kind of thing the city likes to pull: when Marriott put a Washington return address on their stationery, even though they were in Maryland, the city made a big deal out of stopping them. It operates in meaningless symbols. Like the city's film board. How many thousands of dollars go into that? It drove the people who were doing the same thing privately out of business, and the visiting film companies are still using hotels in Rosslyn, just as they were before. The reason we have been done out of cable TV all this time is that the city has been playing more games with symbols, demanding a minority-owned company with 70 percent minority employees in two years. Ridiculous. They'd have ended up with either a sham front, which is essentially what happened to the minority demands in real estate, or else with an under-financed operation that would be out of business quickly enough.

You're calling for a return of the whites in a dominant position?

Not at all, just a realistic view of what the city's residents, black and white, need. A city that was more sensible toward its middle class, black and white, would be a city with a better tax base, far more job opportunities, and a better school system. It's one thing to demand more minority business, another thing to be looking for a job when businesses are fleeing the city. Politicians are very good at putting the jobless in that spot. People who need to feed their families aren't concerned about the color of the money they need to make, as long as it's green. And I don't care about the color of the employers we need to attract and keep in town, either.

What's that got to do with schools?

There isn't a person in town who wouldn't take his kids out of the DC public schools if he could afford the alternative. For all intents and purposes, for middle class people coming to the area, the city doesn't have a public school system, and it has itself to thank for it. For years, the schools were run with symbols, on the basis of what was or wasn't elitist or progressive or socially desirable. The result was that everybody who could, fled the system. And that includes the black middle class, since nobody was learning much. We have smart kids in the system, and we have good teachers and administrators. We spend a lot of money on the system. Under Reed, there was improvement in what was going on, because Reed wasn't concerned about the politics of the system as much as he was concerned with its realities. We need to continue that, and to apply it to all the city's problems. Leadership by symbols is not only bullshit, it's bad for everybody. We spend money on the schools, but people don't think it's safe there. You're going to have trouble attracting better students and teachers in an environment where status is achieved by violence. The basic problem with many of our schools is that they are a dehumanizing environment. But violence is only part of the reason. The other is student involvement in their academic lives. The city's response has been to set up what they call an "academic" high school. That's okay as a stop-gap measure, but it's a ridiculous admission of failure as well. Aren't the other high schools "academic" as well? Are we labeling the students in them as hopeless? Look, many people do much better in college than in grade school and high school, and the reason is that they are treated as human beings in college. They're older, of course, but they also get to evaluate

their teachers, and in general take a greater part in their academic life. Something similar has to be tried in our system to see if it will engender some pride in the system, and to create a leadership class who aren't interested so much in violence as in learning. Barry's reaction to the problem was to suggest school uniforms. It was more of the unimaginative approach the city has taken to solving its problems.

How can the federal government help in any of this?

The Feds have proven themselves worse than useless in helping to solve the city's special problems. They are actually our enemies. I am completely in favor of statehood as the only alternative to the current set-up. We would then have the same monetary relationship to the Feds as do the other states, without having them subvert what laws we make for the city because they are subject to pressures from national forces who come from outside our community. Congress is getting into the habit of overturning our legislation, and we've even had one Congresswoman who talks of the city's residents as if they were her personal wards. This is absolutely intolerable. We need leadership who can get behind all these matters. The guys we've got have already made a hopeless mess of the voting rights amendment passage. We need somebody new.

And you're it?

That's right. I'm fighting the city now over their zoning matters, and I'm not afraid to do what I think is right regardless of the political consequences. We've had enough timidity in this city. I'm not timid, or else I wouldn't be so vulnerable to the kind of classification

that I have been and will be getting. Don't think for a minute that, should the death penalty ever be instituted in DC, that I would allow a single execution. I'd commute sentences, rather than kill in the state's name. Of course, I'd enforce reasonable legislation that I didn't agree with, but I'd work daily to make that legislation sensible to start with. As mayor, I wouldn't spend my administration making excuses for city hall, I'd spend it fighting it.

Everybody says that, don't they?

Alright, then, here's some things about myself that you're not likely to hear from your run of the mill candidate. I've used marijuana. I've used the services of a prostitute. I've engaged in sexual activity that is against the law in this enlightened city, such as oral sex. I belong to a family nudist group. On one occasion, I've had sex with another man, although about all I got out of it was an appreciation for what women feel when they are relentlessly pursued. My newspaper runs sexually explicit ads and photographs. I run the Playground Club, in which people are free to engage in whatever activity they care to. Though I am in favor of making the middle class at home in Washington, I am not going to let commonly accepted middle class values dictate either my private life or the private lives of any other citizens.

Why are you saying these things? Do you not want to win?

Of course I want to win, but not at the expense of honesty. I leave that kind of ambition to professional politicians.



The Jewish Study Center's spring term classes in Jewish history, culture and religion will begin on Monday and Thursday, May 3 and 6, at 1862 Kalorama Road, N.W.

Classes are small and participatory and most have no prerequisites. Classes meet once a week for 8 weeks, and each class session extends 1½ hours. Cost is \$40 per class.

Registration for the spring term will take place Thursday, April 29 at 1862 Kalorama Road from 7 to 10 p.m. Teachers will be present to answer questions.

For mail-in registration materials and more detailed course information, write to the Jewish Study Center, 1747 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, or call 667-7829.

The Travelers Aid Society needs volunteers for its service desk at Union Station. Volunteers serve travelers from all over the world, answering questions about local transportation, lodging, sightseeing, and community services.

They also serve as case aides, in that they register clients who need social service assistance and serve as receptionists for the case workers.

Men and women are needed to staff the desk from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week. Volunteers are given on-the-job training by staff and experienced volunteers.

As a woman, are there times when you feel tense or fearful when out at night or home alone? Some type of self defense training which teaches self confidence and provides helpful techniques could help such apprehensions.

The Rape Crisis Center and Way of the Water Kung Fu School are sponsoring two free self defense clinics this Spring.

Each clinic will operate one month during the months of April and May, every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7-9 P.M. Those wishing to take part in either of these clinics may contact the DC Rape Crisis Center for registration and further information at 232-0202, 03.

TOUT SHEET UPDATE

Based on comments and criticisms, we've made a few changes in our tout sheet over the past month. Of particular note, Kane loses one check on the selling-out to special interests question because of her coziness with real estate folks. We also cheated John Wilson of the two checks he deserved on housing because of his work writing the condo conversion laws, the ban on converting apartments to hotels and rent control. Despite a couple of readers' complaints about giving one check to Barry on crime, he remains the only candidate who has really done anything useful in the field. And we've given several of the candidates one check on the self-government issue to distinguish them from those who have done nothing, although we must say that none of the lot seem overwhelmingly interested in the subject (and Barry's check is pretty shaky because of the matter discussed on page 8 of this issue).



The Gazette's April Tout Sheet
RATING THE CANDIDATES

7

Which candidates have actual experience running a huge bureaucracy like the DC government?

Which candidates have the most substantial records of service to the city?

Which candidates have demonstrated themselves able to come up with imaginative solutions to problems?

Which candidates are the hardest workers?

Which candidates are most productive, i.e. get their ideas into action?

Which candidates have demonstrated the ability to respond to constituent concerns?

Which candidates are the best politicians, in the best sense of the word?

Which candidates have had the fewest questions of personal integrity raised?

Which candidates are personally most likeable? (We have to live with the winner for four years)

Which candidates would be least likely to sell the city out to special interests?

Which candidates have the best record on public education?

Which candidates have the best record on crime and justice?

Which candidates have the best record on social welfare issues?

Which candidates have the best record on transportation issues?

Which candidates have the best record of opposing the DC land-grab and the developer and speculator interests that have fostered it?

Which candidates have the most neighborhood oriented records?

Which candidates have the best record on fiscal matters?

Which candidates have the strongest record of supporting statehood and greater autonomy for DC?

Which candidates have the strongest record of supporting human rights?

Which candidates have the best record on employment and economic issues?

Which candidates have the best record on housing issues?

Which candidates are best able to deal with a complex issue intelligently rather than through rhetoric or simplistic solutions?

Which candidates would be least likely to develop foot-in-mouth disease?

Which candidates would you least mind finding yourself in disagreement with on a particular issue?

BARRY KANE WILSON RAY HARRIS JARVIS

✓✓

KANE

WILSON

RAY

HARRIS

JARVIS

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KEY: Three checks = outstanding; Two checks = good; one check = nothing to brag about but better than some of the rest. A question mark = insufficient data. WARNING: Don't add the checks; some issues are more important than others.



THE QUIET RETREAT

Last fall the Barry Administration went to court and got home rule reduced. Here's how.

JOHN PHELAN

Last fall the battle to stop construction of the convention center was lost in the DC Courts of Appeals. But, as John Phelan points out in the article that follows, the decision has an impact far beyond the convention center issue. Phelan, in this article originally published in the Capitol Hill Restoration Society newsletter, explains how the decision marked an important retreat from home rule, a retreat spurred on by a mayor determined to get his convention center built. Phelan was a leader in the opposition to the center:

In a controversial 5-4 vote, the D.C. Court of Appeals ruled last October that District voters may not propose initiatives to reverse decisions of our elected officials to issue bonds or borrow funds for construction projects. (Thirty-three states *require* voter approval for such bond issues or other long-term borrowing.) The decision culminated a two-year effort by citizen groups to require voter approval of Mayor Barry's \$100 million convention center.

Initiative petitions with 16,000 signatures were first filed with the Board of Elections and Ethics in January, 1979, approximately one year before construction had begun. Mayor Barry, the City Council and some powerful business and labor organizations vigorously opposed placing the convention center issue on the ballot for fear that it would be rejected by the voters. The D.C. Federation of Civic Associations and the D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations, along with approximately 20 other civic groups, representing almost all the citizen and neighborhood organizations in the city, opposed the construction of the convention center with public funds and supported placing the issue before the voters. Council-members Hilda Mason and Betty Ann Kane were the only members of the City Council who consistently opposed the construction of the convention center and both supported placing the convention center initiative (D.C.

construction or operation of the convention center after the effective date of the initiative. When the petitions were circulated during the fall of 1978, the City Council had already approved a budget request authorizing the borrowing of the first \$27 million for the project. The amendment to the Home Rule Act, approved by District voters in November 1977, provides that citizens of the District may propose initiatives except laws appropriating funds. The issue before the Court revolved around what was meant by the restriction "except to appropriate funds." Attorneys representing the City argued for a restrictive reading of the language in the Charter Amendment claiming that the Council and the voters of the District meant that the limitation should be applied to initiatives that had the effect, not only of appropriating funds, but also of de-appropriating funds. The Corporation Counsel, representing Mayor Barry and the District of Columbia and its citizens, argued that Congressional authority over the District of Columbia would be weakened if citizens could stop the construction of the convention center since Congress approved the project through its control of the District's budgetary process—an interesting twist on the home rule issue.

The citizen groups (Convention Center Referendum Committee), represented by William Schultz of Public Citizen Litigation Group, argued (1) that there is only one restriction on the power of citizens to propose legislation, i.e. citizens may not propose laws appropriating funds; (2) that D.C. Initiative #1 did not "appropriate funds" as is commonly defined in the law; (3) that no other statutory prohibition exists in the U.S. Constitution, the D.C. Charter or any other federal statute, to prevent citizens from proposing initiatives having the effect of stopping the expenditure of public funds; and (4) that the Court ought to follow the legal precedent of broad interpretation of voting rights under the powers of initiative and referendum.

it had broad base support from the people of the District. Therefore, every effort had to be made by the proponents of the publicly financed convention center to prevent a public vote. (Recently the voters of San Diego, California, using a mail-in ballot, turned down a proposal to use public funds for the construction of a major convention center by a vote of 60 percent to 40 percent with a voter turn-out of over 70 percent.)

Judge Ferren, writing for the majority, describes how the Court determined that the restriction "except laws appropriating funds" applied to D.C. Initiative #1 even though the initiative would have had the exact opposite effect:

The Council, we note, did not specifically consider the converse situation presented in this case: an effort by the electorate to repeal or amend the substantive authorization for a funded project, to block the expenditure of previously appropriated funds, and to prevent future requests for appropriations. Nonetheless, in light of the Council's substantial concern about the fiscal effects of initiatives, in view of the language used by proponents to describe the broad impact of the 'laws appropriating funds' amendment, and, especially because the 'appropriations' process is necessary to accomplish rescissions as well as affirmative acts of funding, we do not believe the Council's failure to discuss the potential use of the initiative to halt a funded program is conclusive. We are bound to interpret the statute in the way most consonant with the overall intent of the legislature, even if the precise problem before the court was not expressly contemplated by the legislative body.

It is clear from the 1977 Council debates that the concern about citizens appropriating funds had to do with the fact that if it had been permitted, the Council might have to raise the taxes to pay for the appropriation. There was substantial debate, including statements from then-Councilmember Barry, that

Ferren summarized the plurality decision in the following manner:

Accordingly, we conclude that the 'laws appropriating funds' exception prevents the electorate from using the initiative to (1) adopt a budget request act or make some other affirmative effort to appropriate funds, or to (2) block the expenditure of funds requested or appropriated as of the effective date of the initiative act.

A budget is officially "requested" when it is approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor and forwarded to the President. The budgetary cycle is started when the Mayor submits the annual budget to the Council. It is at this time that the citizens and the Council first see what capital projects the Mayor plans for the next fiscal year. The Home Rule Act requires that the Council adopt a budget within 50 calendar days. According to Judge Ferren, once the Council adopts a budget the citizens may not propose an initiative that would repeal spending authority approved in that budget such as for a convention center, a highway, the multi-million dollar subsidy proposed by the Mayor for the Capital Gateway Corporation, or any other major expenditure of public funds.

Therefore, as a practical matter, the plurality's decision effectively blocks all future initiatives to affect the budget of the District of Columbia since it is impossible to complete the initiative process within the 50-day period when the Council is considering the budget—a classic Catch-22 situation. The initiative process takes a minimum of nine months from start to finish. One of the most unfortunate aspects of this decision is Judge Ferren's deceptive claim that it will not block future initiatives concerning budgetary matters but that it only affects the convention center. Judge Ferren asserts that:

once the electorate learns of plans for a capital project (in a budget request by the Mayor), such as the convention center . . . it has the ability to initiate legislation to stop the project in a timely, cost-effective way before the District has broken ground.

It is this situation Associate Judge George R. Gallagher addresses in his fiery dissenting opinion, believed by some court observers to be one of the strongest issued in recent years. Judge Gallagher claims that the court bowed to political pressure and thus failed to protect the voting rights of District citizens:

If the people of this city think that just because their Charter gives them the right to vote by initiative on legislation properly proposed by the citizenry this right will be enforced by this court, they will now know better. In a touch of irony, the majority today votes for a voteless District of Columbia—on this major question of public policy. A group of 15,000 petitioners has been trying since October, 1978 to exercise their Charter given right and now, almost three years later, in opinions resting on convoluted reasoning which can only be described as resentful of the attempt, the citizenry now learns that voting right they thought they had under the Charter was only an illusion.

We should enforce the Home Rule Charter as it is plainly written. I do not subscribe to the sophomoric view that whenever the prestige of the new Home Rule government is perceived to be at stake this court should abdicate its rightful judicial function and somehow find a way to support City Hall—no matter how far-fetched the reasoning. That is not the stuff that strong and enduring governments are made of in this country. It is one thing for a fledgling government to falter and deprive fundamental Charter rights in the process of finding its way toward political maturity. It is quite another matter for this court to do so, being an institution tempered by forty years of decision-making, with every reason to be free from political pressures, and with the judicial traditions and experience of two centuries at our elbow to consult continually. For the court, there is no excuse. We are expected to be enlightened, dispassionate, and guided by reason and experience.

Instead, what we have here is a decision by the court fashioned entirely to support the other branches of government. In doing so, the majority has lost sight of the judicial function, with the result that it has dealt a gratuitous blow to true Home Rule government.

The principal question raised by the plurality opinion revolves around the meaning of familiar English words constituting a single phrase, 'laws appropriating funds.' . . . Our first task is to explain what the Charter language 'laws appropriating funds,' means.

Now that seems plain enough. The electors may propose laws, except that they may not propose laws appropriating funds. The electors here did not propose an appropriation law. They proposed that a Conven-

tion Center be not constructed. This is the opposite of enacting an appropriations law. Only one bent on some other mission would find this to be a proposal for an appropriation of funds. Does it have an impact on a prior appropriation? Everything in government costs money and all legislation has some sort of an impact on the budget, including the recent gambling initiatives which have sailed through to a vote, unmolested.

The plurality avoids the plain meaning of 'laws appropriating funds' by asserting, with seeming despair, that the phrase is too ambiguous for the unassisted mind to comprehend.

Judge Gallagher went on to quote from the plurality decision:

In construing the amendment, we must weigh two major public interest concerns of the Council reflected in the Charter Amendments—the elector's right of the initiative and reasonable fiscal management—with a view to enhancing the value of each without undue intrusion on the other.

Judge Gallagher responded:

By this device, the plurality sets itself up as the super-legislature. Among other things, it would establish the court as the self-appointed decider of reasonable fiscal management. This is a giant leap into a judicial morass—to say nothing of an invasion of the legislative function of government. It is judicial activism run amok.

Judge Gallagher concludes by admonishing the plurality for ignoring the precedents of the voting rights cases of the 1960's:

The court majority is now assuming the role of effectively implementing the unfortunate purpose of the other two branches of government. It is small wonder that at a late stage the American Civil Liberties Union found its way into this case to warn against the impairment of voting rights that is now taking place. Just as we must protect expression and association without regard to the truth, popularity, or social utility of the ideas and beliefs which are offered,' NAACP v. Button, 371 U.S. 415, 445 (1963), so must the right to vote equally be protected no matter that there may be official apprehension as to the outcome. The vitality of the government depends upon this. Other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined' Wesberry v. Sanders, 376 U.S. 1, 17(1964) (voting apportionment). Instead, we have today two opinions (Judge Ferren's and a separate majority opinion by Judge Newman) for the majority denying the right which defy acceptable translation into the real world of government. This right does not—of all things—depend upon exquisite timing.

Only in bygone years has political expression by vote been subjected to so many prior restraints as those laid down here. The plurality opinion, in particular, is cleverly crafted so as to stop the voters at almost every turn, as a practical matter. I make the dire prediction that in the early future there will be a judicial effort to apply the plurality opinion so as to deny future attempts to exercise the voting initiative franchise on proposals considered 'unpopular' in government circles.

The court and the bar will be years untangling this case. This is what happens when the judiciary foregoes its true role. I do not have the slightest hesitation in saying this decision diminishes the court.

I dissent.

There was a curious split among the nine judges on the D.C. Court of Appeals in this case. The five judges voting against permitting the citizens the right to vote on the convention center included Chief Judge Theodore Newman, and Associate Judges Ferren, Kelly, Mack and Pryor. All five are considered to be political "liberals" and "pro-District." The four judges supporting the citizen groups and the right to vote were Associate Judges Gallagher, Harris (the new U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia), Kern and Nebeker. All four judges are considered to be politically more conservative and not known to be strong supporters of "home rule."

A remedy for the unfortunate results of this decision has been proposed by Councilmember Betty Ann Kane. Mrs. Kane has introduced Bill 4-261, to amend the Charter to require referendums on all future bond authorization acts of the Council. Since convention centers and highway projects are financed by long-term general obligation bonds, and since the District may soon be required to finance these projects with bond issues rather than the current method of U.S. Treasury borrowings, this bill will result in a major expansion of voting rights of District residents. For example, if this bill is soon enacted, Mayor Barry's proposals to issue long-term bonds to finance operating deficits incurred over the past three years would require voter approval. While the Mayor's proposal is now stalled in the Congress, it is possible that he will be successful in the near future in getting Congressional support. Consistent with the position he has taken on the Convention Center initiative, Mayor Barry opposes permitting District residents the right to vote on bond issues.



The mayor's race: first cut

SAM SMITH

It's time to stop futzing around. John Ray's proposal that we abolish the school board made me realize that this campaign is getting serious. Here it is just three months into the year and one of the candidates has already come up with two of the worst ideas I've heard in some time. (Ray's other dud, mandatory sentencing, is discussed elsewhere in this issue.)

To be fair to Ray, other politicians have toyed with the idea of doing away with the elected school board, among them Polly Shackleton and Marion Barry.

But in Barry's case, at least, it all seemed more like a political threat than a political policy, and the noises died down quickly when the mayor's office summed up the reaction.

Ray, on the other hand, has offered the suggestion as a full blown idea. He told a group of businessmen the other day that "If the present system doesn't work soon, we should change it . . . and hire a superintendent of schools for a four- or five-year term to set policy and make decisions. When you have 11 members of the school board, it's very difficult for them to make policy. We ought to give the new administration an opportunity to get things in place. At the same we can't wait around the next ten to fifteen years to get things in place. If it doesn't work in the next four years, we have to look for a new mechanism."

The casual willingness to restrict DC's already limited franchise is, of course, the most bothersome aspect of the proposal. But there are other issues as well. If an 11-member school board has such a hard time with

policy, what's the 13-member city council doing messing around with policy? Why not do away with that body as well and really make things efficient?

Further, there is ample evidence that the mayors we have had so far have had more than they could handle even without the school system to worry about. Besides, despite the rhetoric and the media coverage, there is little evidence that the school system is demonstrably worse than other aspects of the city government. In some respects, it is better. It, for example, got its books in order before city hall did and Mayor Barry even copped the school system's finance man to help him figure out what was going on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Like his mandatory sentencing proposal, Ray's plan to ax the school board has a certain simplistic appeal. I like to think that Ray is smart enough to realize that life is more complicated than that, but then I'm left with the uncomfortable feeling that, despite his recognition of the complexity, he is willing to try to convince DC voters otherwise. It is not an endearing tactic.

John Ray has not been a bad city councilmember. On other hand, he has not been a particularly impressive or productive one. Given the alternatives, I can think of no strong reason why John Ray should be in this year's mayor's race.

§

Patricia Harris had yet to announce by the Gazette's deadline so god knows what nostrums she will offer to cure the multiple ills of the city. I am willing to concede that someone may yet come forth and explain to us exactly what it is that Harris has done that is so wonderful. It hasn't happened yet and so I cling to the impression that her substantial support stems more from socio-economic fidelity than from her record or the power of her political thought. And I strongly submit that four years as a high-level federal bureaucrat is in no way even *prima facie* evidence of competence to be mayor. The mayor's job is a political -- not a bureaucratic -- job and gleanings from those who have experienced Harris as a bureaucrat suggest that she isn't much of a politician. (Or that great a bureaucrat either.) Since we are blessed with a number of candidates who are good politicians and actually know with some detail why the city government does and doesn't work, I fail to see why we

Nuke Freeze

The DC campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze has announced plans to place the question of the nuclear weapons freeze on the November ballot in the District. The DC campaign is an organization of DC residents concerned about the threat of nuclear war and the economic burden of the nuclear weapons build-up.

The proposed initiative was filed with the DC Board of Elections and Ethics March 16. Subject to initial board approval, supporters must collect approximately 14,500 petition signatures to place the initiative on the November 2 ballot.

The measure supports immediate negotiation of a nuclear weapons freeze by the United States and the Soviet Union; encourages redirection of resources to jobs and human needs; and recognizes prevention of nuclear war as the only defense against nuclear destruction, rather than futile preparation to survive nuclear attack. It directs the mayor to appoint a nuclear weapons freeze advisory board and to use existing authority to propose to the executive and Congress immediate negotiation of a nuclear weapons freeze.

Over the next eight months, the DC Campaign intends to organize every ward in the city around this issue. This has already begun and the number of volunteers has already exceeded expectations. In addition, the Campaign intends to put together an education program on the nuclear freeze.

If DC voters get to cast their ballots on the freeze this November, they will join citizens in California, Delaware, Michigan, Montana, and New Jersey in state-wide votes on the nuclear arms race. This election year will provide a forum for communities across the country responding to the threat of nuclear war and the economic burden of the nuclear arms race.

Early supporters of the DC Nuclear Weapons Freeze Initiative include Hilda Mason, Arrington Dixon, Dave Clarke, Charlene Drew Jarvis, Betty Ann Kane, John Ray, John Wilson, Reverend David Eaton, Dr. Mary Coleman, Suzanna Cepeda and other community and political leaders.

need a city hall neophyte such as Harris. I am also disturbed, and you should be too, by some of the support that Harris has picked up. The Barbara Sizemore crowd seems to have signed aboard her campaign en masse, and if you think some of Marion Barry's buddies are bad, wait until you wake up with this lot in power.

§

Charlene Jarvis is a competent, underdeveloped politician. If you feel we must have someone from Ward Four as mayor, then by all means vote for her over Patricia Harris. But better she should use this campaign to get a little recognition and then go back, as musicians say, to the woodshed. She's young, a native Washingtonian (the only one of the mayoral crop), and comes from a politically potent ward. She'll be important in the future, but, at this point, she's not as the front of the pack.

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When you come down to it, you can really reduce your choices in this race to three: Marion Barry, John Wilson and Betty Ann Kane. Each is thoroughly experienced in the problems and possibilities of the DC government, each is a political progressive (although with plenty of falls from grace); and we would be delighted with any one of them if they were running in some other city like Philadelphia, Boston or New York (though, of course they wouldn't get elected). Here, unfortunately, they are running against each other so any fair choice between them will be difficult. I plan to put off making it for a while yet, but here are some points to consider:

MARION BARRY: Barry has been a far better mayor than people seem to give him credit for. To a large extent, however, he has himself to blame for the failure to get the credit. Watching Barry operate I am reminded of Disraeli's remark to Gladstone. Disraeli said he didn't mind that Gladstone had the fifth ace up his sleeve but he resented the implication that the Lord Almighty put it there. Barry has not been content with merely being a good mayor and because he feels compelled to hype up some things, manipulate others and play political games with still more, there is a widespread feeling of distrust. Based on the polls, you would think Barry had done something awful as mayor; he now appears to have less support when he went into office.

Since the facts of his administration, which has been largely an improvement over the Walter Washington administration, does not bear out this premise, the most logical explanation is that the mayor has mangled the impression he has given people.

There are, of course, plenty of reasons to have grievances with the mayor. To name just a few: the convention center, downtown development policy, the budget noose put on the schools, libraries and recreation department. There is also tangible reasons to be concerned about the integrity of the administration based on such things as the building permits and ABC board scandals.

In the best of all worlds, any one or two of these might be reason to disqualify Barry as a contender. But such is not our world. Betty Ann Kane is, for example, too close to the realtors for my liking and John Wilson voted for the convention center too. As I wrote at the beginning of Barry's administration, we only elected a mayor, not a pope.

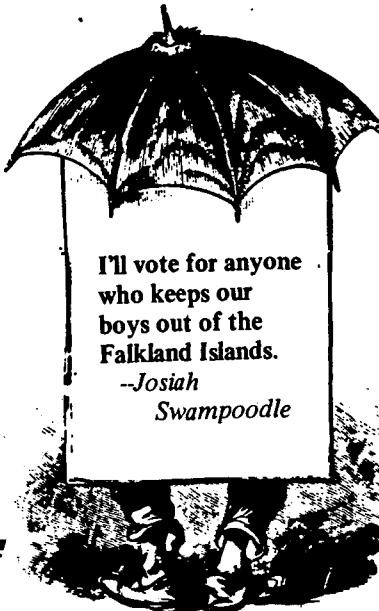
BETTY ANN KANE: There is no doubt that she could do the job and she is ideologically, to my mind, a most appealing candidate. She has a long and consistent record of supporting the small people of this city; of backing often berated institutions like the school system; of fighting for community interests against those of developers and the big money boys. Two noteworthy examples: her criticism of the convention center and the Capitol Gateway project.

Part of the success of a Kane administration would depend on the nature of her constituency. If, as she has done in the past, Kane could garner support from a broad cross-section of the city, then the fact that she is white would be mitigated. If, however, under DC's crazy election system, she were to win as a result of a minority vote dominated by whites and upper class blacks, there would be trouble.

There is also the question of whether she has the flexibility and social savvy to wend her way through the swamps of mayoral politics. She can be rather rigid in her political positions and stiff in her personal relations.

JOHN WILSON: I know a lot of people regard John Wilson as something of a flake, but it is well to keep in mind

Please turn to page 23



Weather

Report

WHERE DO NUCLEAR PLANTS GO WHEN THEY DIE?

Virginia Witt

The recent accident at the Ginna nuclear power plant in New York state highlights an increasingly serious, if little recognized, problem: Many of the nation's commercial nuclear plants are growing old before their time, and no one is yet sure how to dispose of them or how much disposal will cost.

Vibration from the reactor and chemicals in the coolant water are taking their toll on the thousands of tools in the plants' steam generators, causing tube deterioration in 39 U.S. nuclear plants (including Ginna). Many plants have been forced to shut down while leaks are plugged and metal "sleeves" inserted in corroded tubes. And in over a dozen, mostly older, U.S. plants, the bombardment of neutrons is causing the steel vessels which house the fuel to become more brittle and vulnerable to rupture under certain conditions—a problem for which no permanent cure has been found. These and other symptoms of the aging process are not only causing temporary shut downs and increased costs, they are hastening the day when the plants will have to shut down permanently.

At least two nuclear plants (Humboldt Bay in California and Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania) are almost definitely "down" for good. Two others (Illinois' Dresden and New York's Indian Point) are also likely candidates for retirement in the near future.

Old nuclear plants cannot simply be abandoned. They are full of very dangerous radioactivity and will remain hazardous for many centuries. Large areas in each plant are contaminated from lengthy exposure to highly radioactive elements like nickel-59, which has a half-life of 80,000 years.

Despite the growing urgency of the decommissioning problem, neither the industry nor the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has yet come up with a firm solution. Both groups were confident that most plants would last their expected designed lifetime of 30-40 years. Since most plants didn't start up until the late 1960s or '70s, the problem of decommissioning appeared to be far in the future.

But the problem has crept up on them, in part because of premature shut downs like the one at the TMI plant, and in part because several plants appear to be wearing out before they were expected to.

In seeking a solution to this problem, researchers and engineers have little solid information to go on. Although government and industry officials repeatedly assert that the technology for decommissioning plants exists today, actual experience is conspicuously lacking. To date, only one U.S. reactor has been thoroughly dismantled: The Elk River reactor in Minnesota, a government research reactor which was a tiny fraction of the size of today's large commercial plants.

The problem of decommissioning commercial plants

was most recently dealt with in a draft Environmental Impact Statement issued in January, 1981. In that report the NRC outlined three different options for decommissioning nuclear reactors:

- Safe storage, commonly referred to as "mothballing." Under this method, fuel would be unloaded from the plant, all liquid removed and the system flushed out. Then the plant would be locked up and guarded night and day for between 30 and 100 years. After this time, when some (but not all) of the radioactivity had worn off, the reactors would be dismantled and disposed of at some nuclear waste burial site.

Though the initial costs of this method would be relatively low, the expense of maintaining security and safety far into the future would entail a cumulative cost almost impossible to predict.

- Entombment, or concrete burial. This process would involve the same initial clean up as safe storage, after which the gutted reactor would be covered with massive amounts of concrete.

The problem with this method is that the concrete shield would not last as long as the dangerous radioactivity embedded in the walls of the reactor.

- Decontamination and dismantlement. This process would involve a much greater effort immediately after the shutdown of the plant. The plant would be dismantled piece by piece and transported to a nuclear waste dump and buried.

There are several problems with this plan. Unless the process is performed under water and by remote control, the workers involved might receive excessive doses of radiation. These elaborate measures would, of course, be extremely expensive. Also complicating this scenario is the fact that there is not, as yet, a permanent licensed facility for the disposal of high level waste.

Currently, NRC staffers appear to support the more thorough decontamination and dismantlement process. "The more we see of it, the more we think the thing to do is to encourage dismantlement," says Donald Calkins, the NRC staff handling this issue.

The NRC staff, which has been working on regulations covering decommissioning since 1978, is still a year away from completing its recommendations.

In the meantime, concern is growing about a related issue: How much is all of this going to cost, and how is to going to be paid for?

The cost of decommissioning any given reactor is still a matter of guess work. There are too many "X" factors, such as which method is used, how long the work will take, how much inflation will add to the total, etc. Industry and government spokesmen often quote an estimate of \$40 million per plant. A recent article

in *Science* magazine puts the cost of decommissioning a 1200-megawatt reactor at \$50-\$100 million.

Where will the money come from? The NRC does not currently require utilities to set aside money for decommissioning, so most of them haven't earmarked funds for it. To prod them in that direction, some states are now considering legislation making it a requirement. The NRC itself is weighing two similar proposals. One would require utility to set aside the money needed at the time of plant licensing. The other would require the utility to set up a fund for decommissioning which would be backstopped by insurance in case the plant had to shut down prematurely.

Currently, most people who get part of their electricity from nuclear plants are paying only for the plants' operating and construction costs in their electric bill. They are not paying for the costs that lie ahead. Unless there is some uncharacteristically fast action by the NRC or the utilities, the decommissioning costs of some of the plants which are nearing retirement will fall on new rate payers who will never get any benefits out of the plants.

Even more worrisome, high decommissioning costs could push some of the smaller utilities to the brink of bankruptcy, forcing U.S. taxpayers to pay for finishing the job. A harbinger of this gloomy prospect is the sad history of TMI, where the plant's clean up costs, currently put at \$1 billion, will almost certainly have to be partially underwritten by U.S. taxpayers.

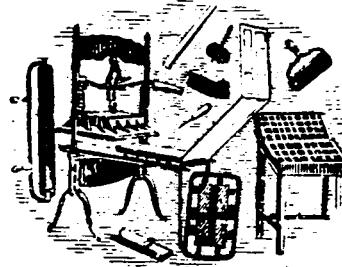
In some isolated instances, people are trying to plan ahead to make sure this doesn't happen. California's Public Utilities Commission has been investigating ways to assure funds for decommissioning. And in Michigan, the Public Service Commission has been wrestling with the problem of how to fund the Big Rock nuclear plant's burial. A handful of other states are also experimenting in this area. But in the vast majority of states, this issue simply is being deferred.

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THE PRESS

Bob Alperin



Assume a Soviet ICBM strike against US missile silos would be as accurate (within 300 ft.) as the CIA says. Enough Minutemen would remain to devastate the USSR according to J. Edward Anderson. Now director of the University of Minnesota's Industrial Engineering Division, he invented and developed missile guidance systems capable of mid-course correction and related things. Differences in the earth's gravitational field render rehearsals in the USSR and USA inadequate for attaining the accuracy to eliminate the other power's retaliatory ability. Many North Pole tests and corrections are needed, but neither power has run such tests.

Anderson doubts all missiles would work, reminding us of the times that dignitaries gathered for test firings and saw failures. *The Observer* (London) reported his paper which seems so relevant to the local "vulnerability" debate.

The AFL-CIO offered alternatives to the Reagan budget but the *Washington Post* eyed only an income tax proposal to finance defense spending and the body's more questioning approach to defense funds. *Boston Globe* readers learned of other revenue plans and of a call for federal investment in job training and to renew deteriorating sewers, highways, bridges, mass transit, and railroads. (*The New York Times* was more precise on the tax suggestions, less so on the spending side.)

Since Citicorp never told stockholders or investors that its top managers had "honesty and integrity" it wasn't legally bound to disclose violations of such norms. Thus the Securities and Exchange Commission overruled its staff's proposed civil action against Citicorp. The *New York Times* reported this imaginative logic.

Richard Cohen had an excellent column on the lack of public indignation about lying by public officials. Vice President Bush's claim that he never used the term "voodoo economics" campaigning against Reagan prompted NBC to show a film of Bush speaking of "voodoo economic policy." Wasn't it worth more than passing mention in the *Post*? The TV column had it.

The *Post* has given very considerable space to charges of communist use of "yellow rain" (biological toxins)

in Asia. A panelist at the 1982 American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting said evidence was inconclusive and contradictory, and that all samples offered in evidence had been so low in concentration as to be well within naturally occurring levels of the chemical. A scientist with the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency agreed evidence on Soviet chemical weapon use was not hard but denied the charges were made to justify a US buildup of such weapons.

Readers of the *Miami Herald* learned of those views. The *Post* reported the panel but ignored those points. (Months earlier it had printed some scientists' doubts about the charges.)

Polish commercial fishing continues off the US, Reagan's sanctions notwithstanding. It's legal because of a research connection with the Woods Hole Laboratory. The *Boston Globe* said two factory ships are expected to catch and process between nine and 12 million lbs. of mackerel, which may double last year's US commercial catch.

In reporting the regional effects of Coast Guard budget cuts, the *Globe* noted in passing deep cuts in two enforcement operations: 90% of its Pacific drug enforcement and 60% of its monitoring of the 200-mile fishing limit in the Atlantic were dropped.

When the French Communist Party had its first Congress in three years, the *New York Times* provided incisive coverage. Although a part of the Socialist-led government the party insists that no wages or benefits be cut in return for a reduction of the work week from 40 to 39 hours. The *Post* ignored the meeting until its end. Then two column inches told of the re-election of its leader and endorsement of his "pro-Soviet stance on world issues." The same day "French Businessmen Find Socialists' Program Taxing" appeared. The 24" feature was the first of two articles.

(The *Post* gave 4" to a strong attack on the USSR by the Spanish Communist chief. It was datelined Paris.)

When a federal judge banned shipments of nuclear wastes through densely populated areas if prohibited by local law, the *Post* gave the nationally-significant story scant attention. It had ignored New York's filing the suit, the temporary injunction, and its extension. (Reader Jay Levy points out that a lengthy Montgomery County council hearing on a bill regulating the transport of nuclear waste received no *Post* coverage.)

Early in February the AP revealed that one-third of the nation's nuclear plants were closed. It named them, briefly noting their problem. Ten others were shut for scheduled refueling and/or maintenance. Restarts for several were delayed by unanticipated problems. The *Atlantic City Press* ran the story, the *Washington Post* didn't.

The *New York Times* continued coverage of the Ginna accident. The director of New York State's Radiological Sciences Institute charged that federal and utility officials gave him wrong information on wind direction, causing the search for contamination to look in the wrong areas. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shared his suspicions of some of the plant's meteorological equipment. A preliminary NRC staff study said the chain of events raised the possibility of other combinations of failures that could be more serious, scenarios probably not anticipated by current emergency procedures. The *Post* skipped both stories.

When the NRC cited Pacific Gas & Electric for "material false statements" relating to Diablo Canyon, the *Post* made it the last and shortest "Around the Nation" item. The false statement a la *Post*: Pacific told the NRC a consultant report was "an entirely independent piece of work." In the *New York Times* you read that the consultant gave a draft to the utility which suggested changes. The utility's reply that it "misunderstood" NRC instructions, headlined the "Around the Nation" item, receiving more space than the NRC charge. Five days later the NRC said Pacific built several earthquake safety features using data two years out of date. The *Times* ran the story the *Post* didn't.

The flap over US trainers in El Salvador carrying M-16s had a generally-ignored aspect. Shortly after issuing a statement conceding the act was against rules, the Pentagon tried to recover it from newsmen (*Houston Post*). CBS explained: in between, Reagan had found the act "understandable."

Federal Election Commission figures for the '80 election showed Republicans outspent Democrats 5-1 but you didn't read it in the *Post*, whose story concentrated entirely on the increased spending of political action committees. (The *Los Angeles Times* reported Republicans now have a mailing list of over a million established donors. The Democrats have 100,000—triple the 1980 figure!)

The *Miami Herald* reported that a White House option paper during the Spring, 1981, Syrian missile crisis proposed the US declare war on Syria. The State Department seriously discussed sending US planes to destroy the missiles. Giving Israel the go-ahead sign was another option. Many, particularly foreign service professionals, were much concerned at the mere discussion of such options.

Stowaways have no right to leave ship or have a deportation hearing. But the Immigration service, fearful of renewed street violence in Miami, makes an exception for Cubans (*Herald*).

Post headline: "Caribbean Welcomes U.S. Aid Plan; Soviets, Cubans Assail It." Old maps show Cuba in the Caribbean, but never mind that. Besides Cuba, the article noted but six nations' reactions. Effusive praise came from the main cash beneficiaries: El Salvador, Jamaica, Costa Rica. Mexico was "reserved" and Panama was encouraged but warned military aid can't solve the region's problems. Nicaragua's ambassador to the US found the plan "a good step" and wanted his land included. At least initially that interesting response received little media attention or follow-up.

Going beyond rephrasing Reagan's remarks, the *Miami Herald* gave details on the plan's proposed implementation and possible effects. For example, the smaller eastern island nations need improved infrastructure (roads, ports, communications) to attract export-producing companies. The plan offers few funds. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* offered a wide round-up of response including Washington-based groups (the Council on Hemispheric Affairs and the church-financed Washington Office on Latin America) often critical of US policy.

Ignored by the *Post* were the proposal's impact on Puerto Rico with its 22% unemployment and facing much lost revenue if the New Federalism were imple-

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mented. Three weeks before Reagan's speech, Gov. Carlos Romero Barcelo told the AP he feared some investors would flee and potential ones would go elsewhere. The lures: free trade and tax incentives added to an absence of US minimum wage and pollution laws. The *Herald* used the story, which also noted the importance of the rum excise tax rebate for the island's revenue. The *Herald* did a separate story on the proposals and Puerto Rico. The administration assured Puerto Rico's non-voting congressional delegate that the proposed tax incentives wouldn't be as favorable as those his island has. Puerto Rican rum would face competition from duty-free rum but the excise taxes would be rebated to Puerto Rico.

Post coverage of Latin America is vastly improved over a year ago. Areas that are not current "hot" spots are covered, a feature increasingly true of *Post* foreign coverage. But serious deficiencies persist. The matter of arms for the Salvadoran rebels is reported almost solely in terms of Haig's charges, which as the media usually remind us, are unsubstantiated. A generally informative *Post* story on the guerrillas waited until paragraph 29 to note they denied receiving arms from Cuba and Nicaragua. It omitted their explanation of how arms were obtained; the Atlantic City *Press* didn't. Kidnap ransoms raised \$40 million. Government troops sell US-made M-16s on the local black market, a major weapons source, for about \$2400. Other weapons are captured. The *Dallas Morning News* reported a top guerrilla commander's claim that the international market is drying up and that his forces went into some battles short of ammunition, lacked guns for all who want them. The *Boston Globe* described guerrilla weapons as light: "automatic rifles, grenades, a few recoilless rifles, and lots of dynamite."

The March *Gazette* flayed the *Post*'s reporting neither the Nicaraguan requests to the US for information as to how weapons were shipped through their country, nor their offer of joint border patrols with Honduras. This reporting void persists.

Miami Herald articles have addressed other widely-found news gaps. One explained the French strategy of military aid to Nicaragua to provide that country with an alternative to dependency on the Soviet bloc or the West. Another *Herald* piece discussed the Cuban role in Nicaragua. Besides 1500-2000 military advisers, there were a similar number of teachers, 1,000 health and hospital workers, and 500 agronomists, construction workers, and various technicians. (Western diplomats made the estimates.) Cuban relations with the local people were described as "spotty, but generally good." If the Cubans are doing things of benefit to many Nicaraguans, it would seem that US rhetoric and policy on Cuba would be counter-productive. Indeed, the *Post* reported that US anti-Sandinista talk is viewed by Nicaraguan moderates as unifying the country behind the target of the barbs.

The *Post* did fine stories on conflict in South Africa's ruling National Party, a possible crackdown on black trade unions, and the death in jail of a white doctor working for a black union. But what the *Post* called "an unprecedented display of militancy and unity,"—a nationwide work stoppage called by black unions to protest the death, rated but three paragraphs on page 52.

The March *Gazette* told of a South African Commission that recommended a council to register journalists with power to remove them for unprofessional conduct. My report, like those I used, neglected the context: previously the government had introduced and withdrawn harsher press laws; they've used other laws to close black papers and ban black journalists; and SA Commission reports don't always become law.

Proposed laws, public criticism, and private suggestions are tactics to induce media self-censorship lest tough laws be passed. The *Observer* told of senior officials of the security forces meeting with editors and giving guidelines for covering national security matters—to protect morale and to not give the foe propaganda. An example of irresponsibility: reporting the opposition leader's parliamentary speech which noted "weakness and friction" in the government.

Aspects of the report that U.S. media ignored appeared in *SA Digest*, a government weekly. Prime Minister Botha promised parliamentary debate and consultation with the press. The government wouldn't decide unilaterally if media legislation is needed, or its contents. The commission said the government obstructed the media, named two cabinet members who had "unnecessary intolerance" towards the press, and said politicians' "insensitive utterances" on human relations matters were "often more damaging than reporting." It asked legal review for banning and detentions and more autonomy

for the SA Broadcasting Corporation. (Botha rejected any SABC restructuring.) The *Post* has yet to cover the report.

The *Post* reviewed "Let Poland Be Poland" as a TV show. The *New York Times* reported some overseas responses to the US-government backed show. A pro-government Spanish paper wondered why Turkey's Prime Minister appeared: his country too is under martial law. Also unrelated here: the European actions against Turkey's human rights violations and its then-recent trade pact with the USSR.

Reporting on Poland continues to be virtually monolithic in what is considered appropriate to report and in interpretation. Conservative demands for a tougher line are the main dissent. *The Times* (London), not the *Post*, reported the AFL-CIO's call for restrictions against US allies, whose trade with the Soviets "would mitigate the impact of our actions." Absent are views such as E.P. Thompson's in *The Times*, that Polish freedom can best prosper under conditions of detente, and that Solidarity should have made common cause with the West's peace movement rather than friendship with its cold warriors.

The Times presented a detailed report on the Vatican's Polish analysis. They favored an independent-from-Washington European analysis, considered Jaruzelski a possible Tito, and thought it "vital" that economic aid to Poland not be withheld. They considered that the general may have acted on his own initiative. Even if there were Soviet prompting, the repression was not comparable with an invasion's consequences.

Two pre-martial law Solidarity stories touch topics ignored by US media. *The Times* told in detail how women in leadership posts prior to the union's legalization were forced out. Anna Walentynowicz went from heroine and Gdansk council member to the kitchen. A London *Observer* article on the Polish right found an "intolerant... chauvinism" of the Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN) in several Solidarity headquarters. Anti-Jewish appeals were "a weapon freely used against KOR members."

The US media report such tactics when directed against Solidarity. A *Post* commentator complained Jaruzelski hadn't publicly denounced anti-Semitism. (He had privately let it be known it wasn't to be tolerated.) The media fail to place the matter within the context of Polish history or ask the Polish church to denounce anti-Jewish appeals. (In the immediate pre-World War II period, Poland passed much anti-Jewish legislation and was the scene of physical violence against the group. Celia Heller's *On the Edge of Destruction* provides details.)

In an historical footnote (not in the *Post*) over 1000 Poles in Austria sought to become South African immigrants and that country's officials sought to recruit those with technical skills. Polish seamen jumped ship to seek refuge in South Africa.

The diversity of attitudes, actions, and goals among Poles in and out of government is not reflected in most US media coverage. Such information is needed for wise policy and its public support. (See the February *Gazette* for previous analysis of Polish coverage.)

NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

IN CASE OF ATTACK, GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR HOT TUB: Marin County, California, has decided that planning for World War Three just isn't worth it. Instead of developing an evacuation plan for a nuclear war, as the federal government requested, the county is mailing each resident a grisly account of when and how 80 percent of them will die if a bomb lands across the bay on San Francisco. The report, prepared by the county health department, was described by its author as a "depressing and frightening document," but one that reflects the pitfalls in the government's civil defense plans. Included in the booklet will be the supervisors's conclusion that the only way to survive a nuclear war is to make sure it doesn't happen.

§

MINORITY BUSINESSES SINKING: A report commissioned, but not released, by the Commerce Department says minority businesses could be extinct by the end of this decade. Minority owned businesses, the report says, now account for less than one percent of the nation's sales, and that figure is likely to drop with the current recession. The report was prepared by James H. Lowry and Associates.

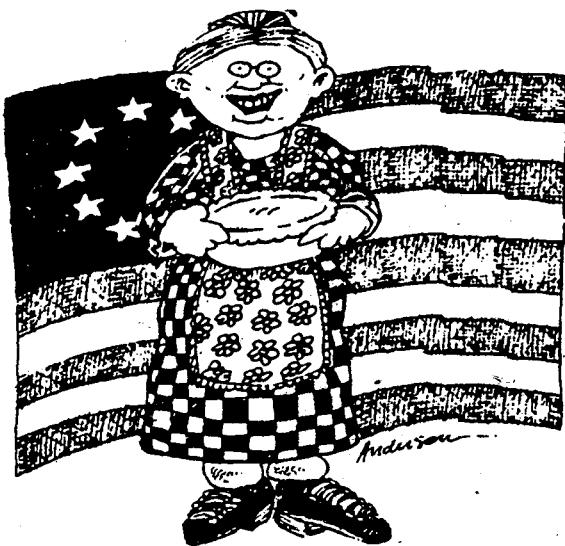
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PENTAGON DEFENDS AGAINST ITS OWN TOYS: Defense contractors are busy these days developing new American weapons to combat old American weapons. The Pentagon is finding that its open-handed arms sales policy has, in some cases, backfired, as countries purchase advanced American arms and then turn against the United States. One reason the US didn't blockade Iran during the hostage crisis, for instance, was the presence of more than two hundred sophisticated anti-ship missiles purchased by the Shah. Iran, along with more than twenty other countries, also has advanced missiles effective against US planes. With the Reagan administration stepping up its arms sales abroad, one military electronics expert at the TRW Corporation says, "The problem can't do anything but get worse."

§

IT WAS THE MEDIA'S FAULT: Retired Army general William Westmoreland says the only way the US can win wars in the future is to control the news media. The former US commander in Vietnam says the media -- especially television -- was to blame for creating an atmosphere of public discontent which crippled the military's ability to win. "Vietnam was the first war fought without censorship," he says, "and without censorship things can get terribly confused in the public mind."

§



Apple Pie

A new psychological study indicates that fat, multi-year contracts may take some of the hustle out of major league baseball players. At Long Island's Hofstra University, researchers studied the contracts of 38 big-league pitchers, to see how long-term contracts affected their performance. In each case, the pitcher's earned run average -- the number of runs charged to him during a game -- was steadily improving. But after signing for big money, the same pitchers began allowing more runs. The result, the researchers say, is that the highest-paid players are sometimes the least productive. To change that, they recommend that owners reduce their basic salary offers, but include "incentive clauses" in contracts, increasing the pay of players who reach specific pitching or batting goals.

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Police around the country say they're encountering a new kind of highway mayhem: motorists who shoot, stab or otherwise assault each other following minor traffic accidents. In the Denver area alone, seven people have been shot as a result of traffic altercations in the past 24 months; seven people have been seriously stabbed and six others have been severely beaten. In all, four people have died. Police say something happens to people when they get behind the wheel. "When they have all that steel around them," says Robert Luby of the Denver police traffic section, "the rules of the sidewalk don't apply."

§

The rapid proliferation of high-tech electronic firms is causing a name drain. Currently, over 2500 firms have names beginning with "Data." One company in California's Silicon Valley got so frustrated that it named itself "Solfan Systems." Founder Erno Lutz explains that "Solfan" stands for "Sick of Looking for a Name."

§

Authorities are calling them "elderly delinquents" -- the mounting number of senior citizens who are turning to crime. While older people are usually thought of as crime victims, in the last decade the number of serious crimes committed by the elderly has increased 150 percent -- half again as much as the rate for all

Americans. The most common crime for older people -- besides drunkenness and drunk driving -- is shoplifting. And this year, a hundred thousand people aged 65 or older will be arrested for felonies, including murder, sex offenses and assault.

Financial need is frequently the cause of crime by older people, but crime researcher Alan Malinchak says he believes "a large percentage of people over 65 are saying 'Go for the gusto.' They know that if they're caught, they'll just be slapped on the wrist." Some sociologists are comparing the old to alienated young people, who feel society's rules don't apply to them. Dean Donald Newman of New York State University's School of Criminal Justice says, "From food snatching to homicide, all the elderly crimes are the result of a subculture of despair."

§

The phrase "Reach out and touch someone" has attained new meaning in New Guinea. The phone company there has been forced to take out newspaper ads to tell customers its new emergency number is only for policy, fire and ambulance service -- not for contacting the deceased. The phone company says it gets eight or nine emergency calls a day from people who want to talk to dead relatives.

§

A French inventor has come up with an automatic vending machine that dispenses 4 1/2 ounces of french fried potatoes within fifty seconds at the drop of a coin.

§

A group called "Morality in Media" is trying to get Massachusetts to ban adult films on cable TV. The group insists its aim is regulation, not censorship, however. Spokesman Robert Ward says, "I'm not against people seeing these films if they want to. I just feel they should have to make an effort to go downtown."

§

The army is dropping some of the gore from its public demonstrations of hand-to-hand combat techniques.

GUIDE FOR HOUSING ACTIVISTS
The Legal Services Anti-Displacement Project is out with a comprehensive guide that housing activists throughout the country should find extremely useful. Called "Displacement: How to Fight It," the book covers such issues as speculation, rent control, federal housing programs, cooperative housing and community land trusts. To order a copy, send \$7.50 plus \$2.50 postage and handling to the National Housing Law Project, 2150 Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Army rangers turned a few stomachs last month during a halftime show at a Seattle Supersonics basketball game. After the show -- which included littering the court with fake blood and eyeballs and apparently ripping the arm from one soldier's body to use as a bludgeon -- Sonics officials were flooded with complaints. They passed them on to the army, prompting a decision to remove the bloody special effects from future shows.

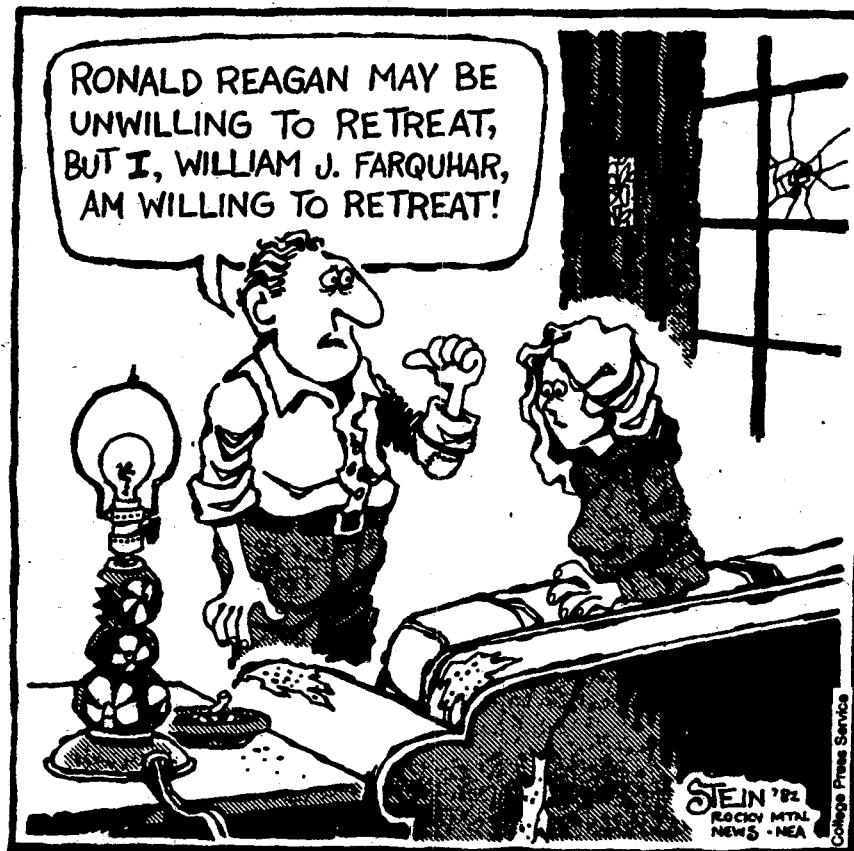
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An Oregon man sent his doctor a bill after having to wait more than an hour for his appointment. Con Sellers of Wilderville, Oregon, says, "I decided if the doctor could bill me for his time, I could bill him for mine." When the doctor refused to pay up, Sellers took him to small claims court, where a judge ordered the doctor to pay Sellers \$85 plus \$35 court and travel costs.

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It turns out that Jack Gimbel will be able to keep his name on his Boothbay Harbor, Maine, store, after all. We reported recently that Gimbel was the target of a lawsuit from New York's Gimbel Brothers Department store chain, which wanted ten years of profits from the small town store for infringing on its name. The chain dropped the suit after Gimbel agreed to add a disclaimer on his store's sign, explaining he's not associated with the New York store.

§



In his State of the Union address, President Reagan unveiled his enterprise zones strategy for bringing "new business, new jobs and new opportunity to America's inner cities." By replacing government programs with private initiatives, the president hopes to turn America's urban wasteland into a thriving economic frontier.

"Those who see poverty and unemployment as permanent afflictions of our cities fail to understand how rapidly the poor can move up the ladder of success in our economy," Mr. Reagan has said. "But to move up the ladder, they must first get on. And this is the concept behind enterprise zones." Beneath this veneer of good intentions, however, lies a plan that would do little for the nation's urban poor.

As described by an administration official, the Reagan plan would designate up to 75 economically troubled areas as "enterprise zones" and lure business there with special tax breaks and "a flexible program of regulatory relief." The program will focus on blighted inner cities, but may also include a few rural areas. Companies locating in the zones could cash in on the following tax breaks:

- A special investment tax credit for capital investments, ranging from three to ten percent depending on the depreciation age of the property.
- Elimination of capital gains taxes on property sold within the zone.
- A tax credit for the wages of low-income workers, equal to 50 percent of wages during the first three years of employment and declining 10 percentage points for each of the following years.
- A 10 percent tax credit for the wages of all employees.
- Industrial development bonds to finance small businesses within a zone, even if the use of such bonds is otherwise prohibited..
- The ability to carry over losses for tax purposes for up to 20 years.

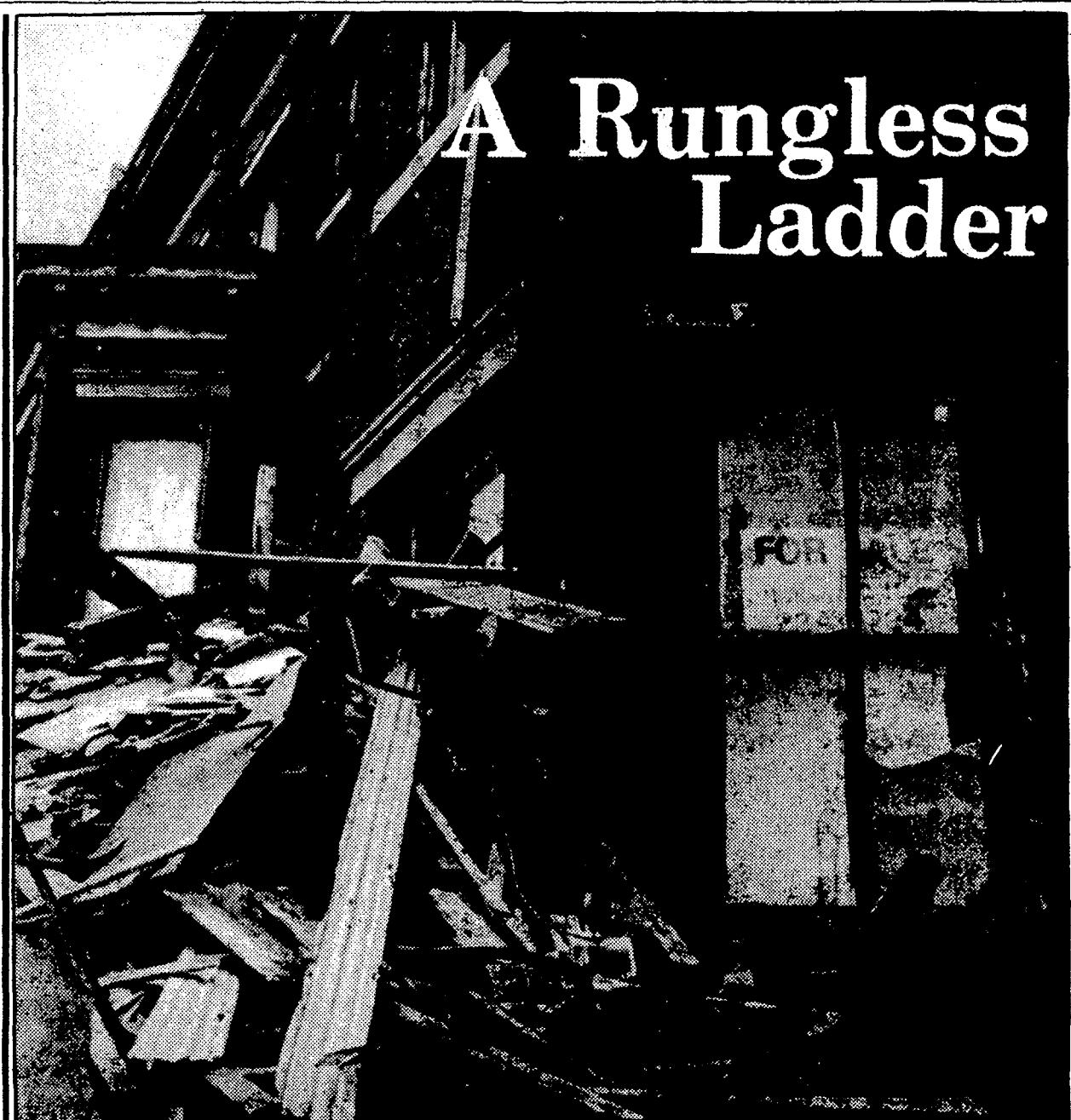
While generous, these credits are unlikely to attract established firms to blighted areas. Cities offering similar incentives have found that profitable companies rarely relocate solely because of special tax breaks. Rather, they are attracted by something neither crumbling cities nor the Reagan plan offer: a solid base of sewers, water lines, roads and police protection — and the prospect of customers coming through the door.

Nor would the president's strategy lure small businesses, which create 80 percent of all new jobs and usually remain in downtown neighborhoods long after tax breaks are gone. Mom and pop firms don't need tax credits for capital investment: they rely on people, not machines. The non-refundable credits for labor costs won't help much either; most small companies have little or no tax liability against which to apply them.

Instead of furnishing the start-up cash and low-cost loans small firms need, the Reagan plan prefers Industrial Development Bonds, revenue-raising tools which most small entrepreneurs have neither the expertise nor the desire to use.

Even if the plan attracted commerce to inner city neighborhoods, enterprise zone residents might not be much better off. As businesses located and prospered in the zones, property values and rents would rise. Because the designers of the Reagan plan oppose any form of rent control or subsidy, skyrocketing rents would push neighborhood dwellers out of their lifetime homes.

The president's "flexible program of regulatory relief" aims at cutting away much of the red tape of licensing, zoning and other laws that conservatives say scare businessmen away. Although some procedural requirements are undoubtedly burdensome, most exist for a good reason. Giving businesses free rein in these areas could allow



them to strip workers and area residents of basic economic, health, and safety protections.

In order to break away from dead-end jobs and welfare rolls, inner city youths need to learn marketable job skills. The Reagan plan makes no provision for job training. Instead it offers tax credits that, like the Targeted Jobs Credit the Administration has criticized, would land youths jobs at fast food chains and the like. Adding insult to inequity, the administration may permit companies to pay a sub-minimum wage to teenagers. "We're trying to decriminalize work," said E. S. Savas, Assistant Secretary of Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In ironic contrast to Mr. Reagan's State of the Union pledge to return fiscal responsibility to states and cities, his enterprise zone plan would impede the ability of local governments to raise needed revenue. The Department of Housing and Urban Development would determine which areas become enterprise zones according to the amount of regulatory and tax "relief" localities offer. This selection process would trigger a bidding war between states, cities, and even neighborhoods, forcing them to offer tax abatements they can't afford. The result: an eroded tax base at a time when dwindling federal funds and increased business activity will require improved local services.

If it succeeds in luring companies to blighted areas, the Reagan plan could also strain the already feeble federal budget. While it would initially target 75 areas for enterprise zone relief from federal taxes, the plan would not limit the expansion of individual zone borders, the number of companies cashing in on tax breaks, or the amount of tax revenues that could be forgone. And companies could thrive in the zones for up to 20 years while contributing little to tax coffers.

President Reagan's faith in the marketplace will not revive declining cities all by itself. Private enterprise may be able to succeed where

A Rungless Ladder

decades of government programs have failed, but only when aided by a coherent and responsible federal plan. Such a plan would enhance not only the cash flow, but also the self-sufficiency of urban economies. It would channel its financial aid to innovative mom and pop enterprises through low-cost loans and direct payments (or at least refundable tax credits), which are fairer and more efficient than open-ended tax subsidies. It would also promote — with prudent regulation and the cooperation of private business — job training, a clean and safe environment, and local fiscal health.

Most important, such a program would narrow the traditional gap between "the little guy" and "big business" by giving inner city dwellers entrepreneurial tools. To its credit, the president's plan envisions the creation of one such tool. Zone residents would form "enterprise associations," which would organize, maintain and police the zone for a share of the profits of certain businesses. The prospects for this good idea becoming reality fade, however, in light of the plan's deficiencies.

An idea for another such tool comes from Corey M. Rosen of the National Center for Employee Ownership, who suggests forming General Stock Ownership Corporations within the zones. Most area residents would own stock in the corporation, which would receive special financial aid and guidance. Stockholders would then direct, and profit from, a substantial portion of the zone's economic flowering.

"General Stock Ownership Corporations provide an approach to economic revitalization that is based on free enterprise and on economic justice," said Rosen. "All approaches in the past have emphasized one or the other, but have failed to link the two together." Such a link is crucial, if enterprise zones are to offer America's urban dwellers a "ladder" out of poverty and dependence.

—Jeffrey Good

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THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

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CHESAPEAKE: James A. Michener. This is, of course, the book that was the first work of fiction in ten years to make it to the number one spot in the New York Times's best seller list. But its subject matter gives it even greater appeal to those in the Washington area. A fine novel and a way to learn more about our bay. \$3.95

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CHARLES McDOWELL

There they were in the Skirvin Plaza Hotel in Oklahoma City, the reporter and the president of the United States. They were talking about the news coverage of the president's economic program—you know, was it fair, was it damaging, and all that.

This was an exclusive interview, but so far nothing had been said that seemed likely to give it a place in history. Then Ronald Reagan leaned forward in his chair and said, "Is it news that some fellow out in South Succotash someplace has just been laid off that he should be interviewed nationwide?"

Allan Cromley, who was traveling with the president as the Washington bureau chief of The Daily Oklahoman, has been a reporter since 1948. He has covered a string of national political conventions, presidential campaigns and administrations. He has been to a summit conference in Moscow and a war in Vietnam. But he knew in a split second Tuesday morning that South Succotash would be bigger in its way than all the rest.

"From the time I heard him say South Succotash, I kept praying the tape recorder was working," Cromley said.

Cromley was not being trivial. He knew instant folklore when he heard it. South Succotash would become a legend not just because a president cited a funny, fictitious place, but because it seemed to crystallize something about the president and something about negative news.

The Daily Oklahoman shared the transcript with The Associated Press. South Succotash hit the headlines nationwide the next day. The television networks searched their gazetteers for such a place, but had to settle for talking about it without a picture of a quaint general store or filling station. When Cromley flew back to Washington, one network borrowed his only copy of the Daily Oklahoman so that it might show a picture of the sensational words, South Succotash, on the front page.

Over the weekend everybody was still putting South Succotash in perspective. Sunday, The Washington Post, for example, had four major articles about it.

Haynes Johnson and Walter Shapiro both wrote fictitious pieces under South Succotash datelines, describing ridiculous television crews swarming over a laid-off worker. Joyce Wadler sent in a real report from a real place, Succotash Road, near Succotash Point, in Rhode Island. One of the charms of her piece was her mocking of herself for being there. Richard Cohen wrote a serious column making some good points, I thought, about President Reagan's difficulty in acknowledging the human effects of economic policy and the networks' difficulty in fairly reporting economic policy in pictures.

The South Succotash theme ran through nearly all the papers. Some of the pundits made the perhaps superficial point that had struck me when I first read the South Succotash quote—a president who habitually uses anecdotes to defend policy should not be surprised when reporters use anecdotes (yes, about some fellow in South Succotash) to show the other side.

But South Succotash was bigger as folklore than as a symbol to quibble over. Bless Walter Shapiro for giving it a setting: "The heavy hand of winter still hangs over this pastoral village in northern Minnesota... It is a special sort of place that Time forgot, but Newsweek remembered."

Well, this week's Newsweek uses South Succotash as the basis for a story called "President vs. the Press." Time has not forgotten it after all; its story is called "Stumping in South Succotash," and there is one of those marvelous Time footnotes on unemployment in Rhode Island.

Whatever we have learned from all this, we certainly have had a chance as a nation to learn that succotash is a mixture of lima beans and corn. Joyce Wadler says bear fat is included in the "old Indian recipe" in Rhode Island.

The dictionary says succotash is of Algonquin origin, but does not mention bear fat.

The banquet manager of the Capitol Hilton hotel says, "We've never served whatever it is."

Somebody told me South Succotash was an old show-biz term in the family of Keokuk, Podunk, and Elephant Breath, Montana. A veteran of traveling shows said that was not right, but remembered that Daffy Duck used to say, "Sufferin' succotash."

Somebody else quoted William Safire of The New York Times as saying South Succotash is, indeed, an old show-biz boondock. Safire is said to be writing something authoritative about it, and I am willing to wait.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

The politics of South Succotash

CHUCK STONE

"Skipper," Mike Wallace reminded me, was a tender nexus in our lives.

"I was at Skipper's wedding and you were there," he said softly. Only the closest friends of the families were invited.

The tough-talking TV reporter was right. About 100 people attended the very private, but socially prominent wedding of Adam Clayton Powell 3rd and Beryl Slocum, a direct descendant of Myles Standish. Close friends call the son of the larger-than-life congressman "Skipper."

Our telephone conversation eased into a sorrowful recollection of the death of Skipper's mother, Hazel Scott. Wallace had attended the funeral.

He wasn't copping a *mea culpa* plea.

But the magnificently profane Wallace, when upset, can lace his conversation with multiples, "you g----- right. I ---- up."

I do the same. My old boss, Adam, used to say I had the foulest mouth on Capitol Hill.

Wallace and I talked at length over the telephone about his now-famous Earl Butz-like gaffe.

The comparison burns inside him like a frying pan of boiling grease.

Butz wondered why everybody was distressed. If contrition is blood, Wallace is operating his own blood bank.

"What really hurts is not that [expletive deleted] mistake," he lamented. "but that the only thing that 5 million black kids will remember on my tombstone is that [expletive deleted] remark."

"They won't know that Adam Powell and I were close friends. They won't know about my long-time relationship with Malcolm X or my many activities in civil rights for more than a quarter of a century."

During our long telephone conversation, he described the sequence of thoughts that ended in his culinary juxtaposition of watermelons and tacos.

Do I know something about unfortunate juxtapositions!

I told Wallace how readers had handed my head to me when I juxtaposed the Yankees winning the pennant in the ninth inning with three consecutive black players

at bat and the pennant-losing Phillies parenthetically having the worst black player record. To readers, the parenthetical became the issue.

Ironically, Wallace had been filming a story on a loan contract which could be misused to economically hurt poor people. "I couldn't understand that [expletive deleted] contract!" he fumed.

But his clumsy choice of metaphors missed a fragile distinction.

If he had said "soul food and tacos," that would have made him one of "us." "Watermelons" made him one of "them." "You g----- right!" he exploded.

A racist doesn't give a damn what you think of him. A humanitarian doubles over in pain when you tell him he has lacerated your sensitivities.

For the last month, Mike Wallace has walked in agony because he has hurt people he loves and respects. And they, him.

When one of my favorite members of Congress, Cardiss Collins, D-Ill., wrote Wallace expressing her disappointment with his remarks, the "60 Minutes" reporter promptly went to D.C. and spent a long session with her and an aide.

I called Cardiss, who was now sharing my reassessment. "He's terribly upset. I think we should support him," said this marvelous woman.

More important than me or Cardiss to Wallace were the kids.

He came to Philadelphia and sat down with key minority members of the University of Pennsylvania, where he is scheduled to be the Ivy Day speaker. The journalistic giant wanted desperately to square himself with tomorrow's leaders.

United Minorities Council president Marc Rodriguez was impressed.

"He was right there apologizing and admitting he made a mistake," Rodriguez told the Daily Pennsylvanian. "That takes courage. Now that I have met him, I really don't believe his comments reflect racist feelings."

Black Student League president Dwayne Everett agreed that Wallace's retention as the Ivy Day speaker was still significant for them.

"The best thing to come out of this," said senior class board president David Sherman, "is that we were able to work things out together. We've come to an understanding."

Amazing. And Mike Wallace was the bridge for this lesson in tolerance.

If Adam were alive, he probably would have grinned at Wallace and shook his head. "Yeah, you tore your a--, baby. But I still love you."

We should all keep that kind of faith.

Philadelphia Daily News

Mike Wallace and watermelons

AMERICAN JOURNAL

I live in a rent controlled apartment, a one-bedroom place that my friend Liz and I share for \$220 a month. As renters in one of the tightest, most expensive housing markets in the country, we could easily pay \$350 without rent control, maybe more. Or maybe we couldn't pay, and we'd have to move — two more displaced persons priced out of their home by the gentrification and real estate speculation rampant in the nation's cities and towns.

Like a lot of Americans, we have a dream of owning our own home someday. But with the price of buying a house soaring out of sight — a three bedroom home sells for \$200,000 in our neck of the woods — we may never realize that dream. Unlike our parents, homeowners all, we may pay rent the rest of our lives.

It was with anger and fear, then, that I read the recent news that the Reagan administration is thinking of ending all federal housing aid to municipalities with local rent control laws. This startling proposal is being pushed by the President's Commission on Housing. Never mind that this recommendation, if it is adopted, will brutalize the local autonomy that the Reagan White House claims to cherish. It will do what all the Reagan programs are designed to do: enshrine property rights for them that's got at the continued expense of them that's not.

Of course, the commission isn't coming right out and saying that. No, as is their wont, the Reagan axmen say they're doing this for our own good. A recent statement by the commission contends:

"Rent control laws inhibit owners and lenders from investment in rental housing and consequently constitute a substantial deterrent to production and maintenance of rental housing. While the rights of states to control internal affairs are essential to the American political arrangement, these rights do not entitle states to do irreparable harm to federal investments within their boundaries."

As with other applications of Reaganomics, the logic behind that statement is easily refuted. Opponents of rent control point to the devastated moonscape of New York's South Bronx as evidence of what rent control will do to the community, but they ignore the fact that cities such as St. Louis and Cleveland — with no rent control — have rates of abandonment even higher than the Bronx. Moreover, rent control's foes forget that some places with rent control — Brooklyn's Bensonhurst, not far from the South Bronx, and Santa Monica, a city of renters near

Los Angeles — are among the most stable of America's urban communities.

During the housing price spirals of the 1970s, more than 100 municipalities enacted some form of rent control laws. Most were of the so-called "moderate" type that stopped short of freezing rents. These laws provide for a controlled profit for landlords — usually keyed to rises in the owners' expenses. They also typically exempt new housing and small landlords, while they tie annual rent increases to property maintenance and provide protection from arbitrary eviction for tenants.

Most studies of rent control in the past 10 years show that such reforms give at least short-term relief to renters who, as a group, are poorer, older, and less mobile than property owners, and are more likely to be racial minorities. Landlords, as a group, have hardly suffered. Most continue to invest in municipalities with moderate rent controls, and most continue to make money.

David Armstrong

Some 200 American cities and towns now have rent control laws. All of them are threatened with obliteration by the Commission on Housing's recommendation, since few, if any, communities could function without federal housing aid. The commission has recommended that Congress deny offending municipalities direct investments such as housing subsidies, public housing funds and grants for restoring delapidated housing. The commission would also end indirect investments, such as Veterans Administration mortgages.

If this proposal passes into policy, it will underscore tenants' status as second-class citizens — a status that was written into the U.S. Constitution when it was decided that only property-owning white males could vote. It took a grassroots suffrage movement to get tenants the vote in the 1860s. Rent control laws came later, after much agitation by tenants incensed by the failure of the free market to provide affordable quality housing.

Denounced by conservatives as dangerously radical, rent control is a modest reform, when you think about it. It doesn't deny landlords a profit or challenge the basic acceptance of private control of the public's need for shelter. Even this minor league protection has drawn the fire of conservatives, however — part of the administration's larger war on Americans so unfashionable as to be without designer clothing and mountain ranches on which to run their horses.



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CANDIDATES Cont'd

that we live not in a normal city but the bureaucratic capital of the world. Human, as opposed to political/bureaucratic, behavior is remarkably discounted here. Wilson appears a flake simply because he is probably the most human and the least programmed of the candidates. He displays -- egads! -- humor, anger and passion. Part, admittedly, is a show that is pretty political in itself, but a Wilson administration would stand a good chance of giving this city something it sorely needs -- some real spirit. His verbal static is certainly no more objectionable than that of Ed Koch and generally more amusing and to the point.

Wilson, again somewhat a rarity among local politicians, has the ability to think and talk about issues with the perceptions of an observer as well as the prejudices of a participant. And to an extent greater than some of his old civil rights colleagues, Wilson has kept the faith -- he still believes in a humane, non-racist, decent society, not as a slogan but as a core of principle.

Finally, John Wilson is a shrewd and effective politician, well regarded in his ward by a wide variety of his

constituents. They have not found him flakey or off-the-wall; in fact they have given him strong electoral support. And Wilson claims, and probably can support the claim, that he has the most substantial legislative success record of any member of the current council.

On the other hand, Wilson can be erratic and, from my point of view at least, sometimes dead wrong, witness his recent assessment freeze proposal and his support of the convention center. My thinking is that I would probably agree with him less than Barry or Kane but might tolerate him better. Which is the funny way politics can be.

I would urge Gazette readers, despite what the polls may say, to turn their serious attentions then to these three: Barry, Kane, and Wilson. All three have paid their dues, and all three have sufficient virtues to warrant strong consideration. They each, as well, have serious faults, but just remember: if this were Chicago, people like Barry, Kane and Wilson wouldn't hardly be able to get on the ballot. Much as we bitch, we in DC are sometimes lucky.

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

Ward Four

WARD FOUR NOTES

Rich Holzsager has been named treasurer of Neighbors Inc, replacing Bruce French who resigned in early February. The new budget includes money to reconstruct the upper part of Blair Road (from Piney Branch to Eastern). The item got into budget because of lobbying by neighborhood activists. The DC Court of Appeals has granted three neighborhood organizations the right to intervene in the Whistle Stop case. The owners of the Whistle Stop, a bar on 4th Street, are appealing the ABC board's decision denying them a liquor license. Community groups support the board's decision. Meanwhile, the owners of the Whistle Stop have sued Plan Takoma and a couple of neighborhood activists for \$40 million, contending they were libeled in a pamphlet distributed concerning the case. The defendants have denied having anything to do with the pamphlet. ANC 4A has voted to oppose all closings of Beach Drive proposed by the National Park Service. In 1968 the Carter Barron East Neighborhood Association consisted of one block and nine families. Today the organization has 70 paid members and averages 45-50 people at its meetings. CBENA has grown block by block and now encompasses 27 city blocks. Says CBENA president Billie Gidney, "The feeling has been that expansion should be very gradual with each added unit being very strong." Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Christ Lutheran Church.

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Linda Diane Bunch, daughter of Mary and Jerome Bunch, has been selected as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America for 1981. She was chosen from thousands of nominations submitted by business and civic leaders throughout the country. Ms. Bunch was one of the first women graduates of Yale University and now works for a large Connecticut corporation. Neighbor's Ink recommends Mamma Desta, 4840 Georgia Ave. NW, Says NI: "The first Ethiopian restaurant in Washington, Mamma Desta is still one of the best." Thanks to Neighbors Ink for their kind words about the Gazette. We love you too! Some 650 Ward Four residents have

received grants under a federal low income home energy assistance program run by the District. Some \$225,000 was dispensed in Ward Four in the first two months of this year. Loretta Ross has been reappointed to the Commission on Women. Ward Four appointments and reappointments to the Mayor's Committee on Budget and Resource Development include Phyllis Young, Dorothy Duncanson, Arthur Whitaker, Bettie Graham, Betty McKenzie, Paul Johnson, Dr. Stanley, Nancy Smith, Evelyn Jones, George Clark and Everett Scott.

MCDONALD'S OUTLET?

A new McDonald's outlet is being planned for upper Georgia Avenue, next to the Cork & Bottle liquor store between Geranium and Hemlock. Because the back of the lot is zoned residential, a zoning variance will be required. At press time no neighborhood groups had taken a position on the matter. Representatives of McDonald's have met with officials of community organizations. Concern was expressed about the impact of the outlet on adjacent residences, pedestrian safety and the possibility of increased crime, trash and noise. "We are pleased that McDonald's met with us before submitting their zoning application," said Neighbors Inc. president Loretta Neumann. "We're particularly concerned about the possibility of Georgia Ave. becoming a fast-food strip development. Traffic is already terrible, with a very high rate of mid-block accidents. On the other hand, we do feel an obligation to work with the business community to see if there are ways to make new development more compatible."

Ward Two

WARD TWO NOTES

The mayor has named a number of Ward 2 residents to his committee on budget and resource development. Ward 2 new appointments are Wallacetine Curtis, Dr. Ralph Bristol, Jr., Zelma Burt, and Eugene Buehler. Reappointments are Richard B. Westbrook, chair; William F. Ware, Grace A. Savage, Harold Davitt and Doll Gordon. The Woodrow Wilson House will have an open house during Preservation Week, featuring tours of the museum and neighborhood, films and light refreshments. The open house will be on May 9 from 12-4. Free. More than 400 Ward Two homeowners have been aided so far this year under the District's share of the federal low income home energy assistance program. Grants have totalled \$134,739 with an average payment of \$334. Herman Hochman, former president of the Boston House Tenants's Association and a neighborhood activist, passed away on February 6.

To find out about how your block can get involved in the neighborhood watch program call 673-6920. The Dupont

CLASSIFIEDS

PRINCETON GOVERNMENT SUMMER interns need inexpensive accomodations mid June to August. Send listings -- location, price, space available, whom to contact, to Minnie Reed, Director, Career Services, Clio Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544.

Circle Neighborhood Commission has received a two page list of outstanding zoning violations in the area from the Corporation Counsel. Most of the violations consist of illegal office use in residential zones. Violations still to be corrected are the sexually-oriented establishments in the 1300 block of Conn. Ave. The Dupont Circle Neighborhood Commission has gone on record urging the city council to pass the strongest and most equitable repair and deduct legislation. The Shaw/Dupont Community Center Coalition is still hard at work on efforts to transform the former Jewish Community Center at 16th & Que into a community center. The coalition has found that neighbors desire space for social gatherings, meetings and for the elderly to use for their activities. The plan is for the city to transfer the center to a community corporation on a 99-year lease. After renovations, the corporation would operate the building as a self-sustaining recreation community center.

The Shaw-Logan Circle Neighborhood Commission has voted to oppose the closing of the Anthony Bowen YMCA. A Georgetown Defense Fund has been established to help the neighborhood fight the liquor license renewals of establishments the community finds objectionable. The fund got \$500 from the Georgetown Neighborhood Commission for starters. The

Foggy Bottom Neighborhood Commission has gone on record supporting tough drunken driving laws. The commission also requested the Zoning Commission to require public hearings before day care centers are permitted in apartment house zones.

Ward Six

19TH ANNUAL MARKET DAY

The Friendship House Association holds its 19th annual Market Day Street Festival on Sunday May 2nd from noon until seven pm. The fair will benefit Friendship House, a multi-purpose social service agency and will be held on 7th Street between Pennsylvania and North Carolina Ave. SE. Activities planned for this year include children's games and rides, restaurants featuring a variety of foods, baked goods, sales of handmade crafts, household treasures and a fashion boutique. This year, in addition to supporting the many programs of Friendship House, the festival will help Friendship House recover from a rather disastrous winter, during which more than thirty pipes burst in its main building, resulting in extensive damage to walls, radiators and floors.

THE DC BOOKSHELF



CITIFAX: Facts & figures about DC

CITIFAX: In invaluable collection of facts and figures about DC that you'll find nowhere else. Plus a listing of citywide and ward groups. Topics covered in maps and charts include poverty, industrial land use, per capita income, gross income by wards, office rental rates, school test scores 1975-1980, school enrollment, teachers salaries, comparison of school budget with suburban jurisdictions, private school enrollment by wards, tax revenue by source 1970-1980, tax revenues lost due to the federal presence, changes in the recreation budget, wards and neighborhood commissions, DC neighborhoods, city council committees, comparison of business taxes with other cities, land use in DC by type, recreation and leisure activity sites by ward, average house assessments by neighborhoods, comparison of housing sales prices with other metro areas, results of initiatives and referenda, presidential votes, ward results 1980, 1980 election results, population figures, Metro ridership by month, change in ridership to downtown, prior mode of Metro riders, causes of death. All this for only \$2.00

YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON: A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95.

THIRTY-TWO PICTURE POST CARDS OF OLD WASHINGTON, DC. Ready to mail. Rare photos reproduced as post cards in sepia. A different way to stay in touch. \$2.75.

CAPTIVE CAPITAL: Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," Bryce Nelson of the LA Times. "An excellent gift," Bill Raspberry in the Washington Post. "Must Reading," Afro-American. "A joy to read," Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune.

NOTICE: The Gazette has secured the rights to "Captive Capital" and can now offer it to its readers 40% off the list price of \$10. For Gazette readers: \$6!

BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS. The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3.

PUBLIC BANKING: A MODEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. A monograph on how to alter the city's banking system by William Batko of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. \$1.

TO: DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

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OLD WASHINGTON, DC, IN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS: 1846-1932. This is a truly fine collection of over 200 prints that provide an enduring record of this city. \$7.95.

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JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON: Done in Wieb's wry and pointed style, this map was drawn for the Bicentennial and is now available for 40% off at \$1.50.

WASHINGTON: Constance Green's Pulitzer Prize-winning comprehensive history of Washington is now available in paperback for only \$9.50. The basic book of DC history.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WASHINGTON STUDIES AND DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR LOCAL COLLECTIONS: This is a revised and enlarged edition of an outstanding bibliography of Washington materials that has been out of print for several years. It has been compiled and annotated by Perry G. Fisher of the Columbia Historical Society and Linda J. Lear of George Washington University. There are nearly 350 entries in the new edition, as well as updated descriptions of the major local collections of Washingtoniana. \$6.

ALLEY LIFE IN WASHINGTON: Family, Community, Religion and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970. By James Borchert. Borchert challenges conventional wisdom that the impact of the city led to the breakdown of migrants' social institutions. Borchert shows how Washington's alley dwellers adapted patterns that permitted continuity and survival in an often harsh environment. The male-headed nuclear family composed the fundamental unit in this urban subculture, but extended families, kinship networks, alley communities, and folk and religious traditions continued to provide coherence and to help alley dwellers cope with the rigors of everyday life. Forgoing outside assistance, these self-reliant people adjusted to their limited incomes and tiny quarters by using folk cures, remedies, and food sources, as well as by devising ingenious furniture. These crowded but isolated and homogeneous populations were able to shape close-knit communities, with social hierarchies which administered aid and comfort to the needy, but which also punished transgressors. This book is being sold by the Gazette at 20% off list price. \$14.80.

WARD SIX NOTES

The Capitol Hill Arts Workshop presents "Toys in the Attic" by Lillian Hellman, May 8, 9, 15, and 16. Info: 547-6839. Appointments and reappointments to the Mayor's Committee on Budget and Resource Development include Howard Croft, Kenneth Cox, M. Alexander Stiffman, Marguerite Gras, Letha Ruth, Laura Trexler, Bernice Brown, Charmaine Yochim, Julie Servautes and Irving Hinton. More than eight hundred Ward Six residents received assistance under the federal low income home energy assistance program this winter. The program is run by the District with federal funds. Total grants in Ward Six in the first two months of this year came to more than \$285,000. St. Monica's Parish, 1340 Mass. Ave. SE, has applied to the BZA for permission to operate an elementary school with a maximum enrollment of thirty-five students, ages four to seven, in its first floor parish hall. The Capitol Hill-Southeast Neighborhood Commission has asked to the city to give it adequate notice before establishing a detoxification center at 1227 G SE. The ANC notes that the center is next to senior citizens' housing and that the neighborhood already has five centers. The commission also took a survey of residents bordering an alley between 11th & 12th St. SE north of E Street and found that most of them wanted the alley named after the late Capitol Hill activist Van Dyke Walker, rather than after an Indian saint, as proposed in legislation before the city council.

The Arthur Capper Health Center, 601 L Street, S.E., opened last month in a recently rehabilitated 297-unit building for the elderly and handicapped in the Arthur Capper public housing complex. The full-service 36-room health center is expected to serve 5,000 to 6,000 residents of Ward 2 and Ward 6.

The new facility includes the full range of primary health care services, including pediatrics, gynecology, adult medicine and dental services. It also will offer a wide range of special services, including podiatry; cardiology; dermatology; mental health; family planning; the Women-Infants-Children nutrition program; and hypertension, vision and hearing screening.

off our local street names. The commission also voted conditionally to support a zoning variance to permit town houses at MacArthur and Foxhall Road. Fifty-three residents of Ward Three received low-income home energy assistance grants this winter under a federal program run by the DC government. Appointments and reappointments to the Mayor's Committee on Budget and Resource Development include Allen Beach, Gilpin Walker, Robert Stiehler, Bobbi Blok, Ronald Eng, Megs Ewers Tufano, Ewan Clague, William Council, Alice Harper and Irma Whipple.

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has awarded the Fillmore Arts Center, part of the six-school complex, with \$10,000 to be used for arts education. The award was one of nine given nationwide to schools recognized for outstanding instruction in creative programs, significant student achievement and broad administrative and community understanding and support. There were 450 applications.

§

Plans for the next stage of McLean Gardens development come before the Zoning Commission on May 3 at the Second District



Roses & Thorns

THORNS TO THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT, which has proposed new rules that would severely limit the rights of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. The rules would, among other things, virtually eliminate cross-examination by ANCs (often the main avenue for ANC participation), severely limit the issues that ANCs can bring up, such as air pollution impacts and commercial displacement of housing, and require that ANCs file written testimony seven days before a hearing. As a representative for a group of neighborhood commissioners put it: "These restrictions go against established practice and are contrary to the spirit of the ANC Act, and are probably illegal. Moreover, this could be the first of similar moves by other city agencies." In fact, in our view, many of the decisions made by the BZA should be made by neighborhood commissions.

ROSES TO GEICO for offering to help unsnarl the city's voter registration list. The company has promised its chief data processing officer and several other employees to the project, which they think they can finish by May 15.

ROSES TO SAMMIE ABBOTT who won reelection last month as mayor of Takoma Park. The erstwhile scourge of the DC freeway builders got nearly two-thirds of the votes and helped to oust incumbent councilmembers who had opposed him.

THORNS TO THE ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY for refusing to write any new renters' policies in DC unless the policyholder can guarantee someone will be home 24-hours a day. The DC Department of Insurance is looking into the matter.

ROSES TO THE LOCAL ACLU which has come up with a first-rate pamphlet called "Demonstrating in the District of Columbia." The pamphlet wends its way clearly through the confusing and often conflicting regulations governing demonstrations in DC. To find out how to get hold of this pamphlet call the ACLU at 544-1076.

ROSES TO COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAM SPAULDING and the FIFTH DISTRICT POLICE for helping to citizens crime watch. This is the first of that has begun using

Ward One

Appointments and reappointments to the Mayor's Committee on Budget and Resource Development include Peter Schott, Leola Bynum, Karen Johnson, David Parker, William L. Rice, Edward Richards, Charles Dynes, Evelyn Jackson, Jeanne Viner Bell and Rev. Baysic Gallimore. More than eight hundred Ward One residents were aided last winter by the federal low income home energy assistance program run by the DC government. Ward grants totalled more than \$278,000. A Friends of the Mount Pleasant Library is being formed. The Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Commission is looking for people with information and photos of community historical interest. Call Linda Low at 232-0092 if interested. The Stoddard Baptist Home on Newton Street has plans to replace the addition to its main building with a 160-bed home for the elderly.

Ward Three

The local Neighborhood Planning Councils have elected officers for the coming year. NPC2 (east of Conn.) elected Tim Hannapel adult chair and Patricia Nef youth chair. NPC# (west of Conn.) elected Johnnie Mae Durant adult chair and Anne Washington youth chair. The new administrator of the two NPCs is John Libby, who replaces Betty McKenna. The NPC office, at 4025 Chesapeake St. NW, is open from 10-5 on weekdays. Call 282-2187. The NPCs run programs for youths. Folks in the Burleith-Glover Park area are having a hard time with names. First the realtors started calling their neighborhood Upper Georgetown, then the American Jewish Congress proposed renaming Tunlaw Road Wallenberg Way, to many Jews

Police station. The hearing will begin at 7 pm and will be continued to May 10 at 1:30 pm if necessary. The plan involves the construction of 650 residential units, 40,000 square feet of retail and office space and a community center, including an indoor swimming pool and exercise facilities. The residential units will be contained in a variety of building types, including walk-up apartments in mews, and mid-rise and high-rise apartments. A total of 725 parking space will be provided. The case is number 81-22P. With only one dissent the Chevy

Chase Neighborhood commission has gone on record in support of the traffic control experiment on Reno Road. The commission did, however, make several suggestions for easing problems on side streets. Our own view of the matter is that the Reno Road experiment has been largely successful and should definitely be continued. It is true, however, that the city has failed to pay enough attention to traffic problems on side streets, especially roads like Porter. The Cleveland Park House Tour takes place on April 25, for the benefit of National Child Research Center. For information call 363-8777.

CAMPAIGN FORUM: Polly Shackleton

Polly Shackleton is running for re-election as Ward III city councilmember:

For the past seven years, I have represented our citizens in Ward 3, and with the help of volunteers, my staff and I have responded to literally thousands of constituent concerns and problems.

As these volunteers know all too well, getting timely and efficient and effective response from government is a major issue today. Experienced leadership is increasingly important in making government work.

- leadership that has a demonstrated track record
- leadership that knows how to get things done
- leadership that can show results without additional burdens to District taxpayers.

As chairperson of the Council's Committee on Human Services, I oversee the spending of nearly a third of the city's budget. Over the past years, we have endeavored to assure that these programs receive adequate funding—for libraries, day care, health and other programs for the needy—while at all times making the best possible use of available resources. Efficient management and delivery of city services are emphasized.

Further, a few years ago, I recognized that our homeowners and senior citizens needed some tax relief to protect their home investments and to allow them to continue to live in their own neighborhoods. Together with my city council colleagues, I co-sponsored the homestead exemption and senior-citizen circuit breaker which have offered relief to thousands of citizens.

But government is more than delivering services and keeping down costs. It also must offer protection to those who need it whether that be

- protection from crime
- protection from zoning violations and neighborhood disruption

- protection from virtual eviction from apartments being converted into condominiums.

I have sponsored and supported legislation in each of

Reno Road Hearing

The Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on the traffic operation of Reno Road on April 21 at Wilson High, 730 pm. The department has monitored traffic movements within the Reno Road corridor since its experimental change in traffic patterns began last summer. It has a report on its findings that will be available at Ward III ANC offices. At the hearing, representatives of government agencies, ANCs and recognized community organizations will each have 15 minutes to testify. Oral statements by individuals will be limited to five minutes. Written statements can be sent to the Department of Transportation c/o Lorraine Sorrel, room 519, 415 12th NW, DC 20004, no later than April 30.

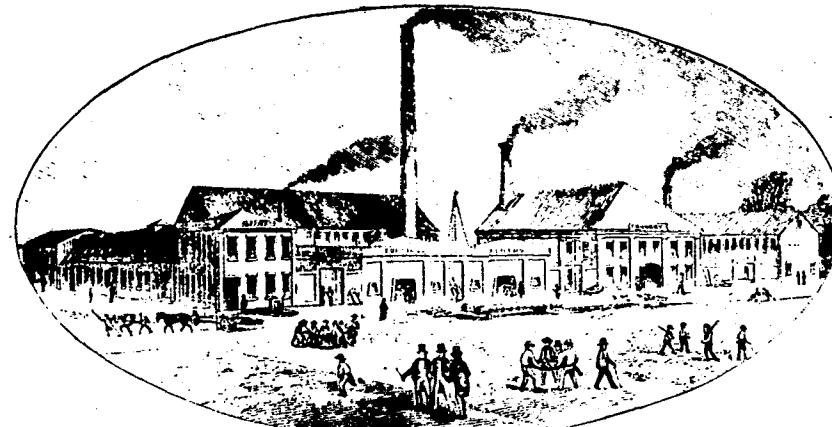
these as well as in many other areas—legislation that is now in effect.

I am particularly proud to have worked with so many fine people on these efforts. In fact, more than 400 of them already are on my re-election committee. This committee includes present and former Democratic leaders at the national, state, ward and precinct level; present and former ANC Commissioners; Ward 3 citizens association members; representatives of many tenants groups; public school parents; members of the League of Women Voters; consumer advocates; elderly citizens; professional, business and labor leaders; representatives of the arts; gay rights activists; advocates for day care, health and social welfare programs; neighborhood preservationists; women's caucus members—you name them and you can find them in the list!

Earlier this year, a reporter who was interviewing me asked if my age or my health would be a problem if I were to run again. I pointed out that the most important elected official in the world—the President of the United States—is the same age as I am, as are a great many leaders in this country and abroad. Now it's not that I agree with the president's policies—in fact, I don't—but I do feel that if age is no barrier to the highest office in the land, it certainly should not be one to a ward councilmember.

Furthermore, I am sure, as many friends from the Commission on Aging would agree—"you're as young as you feel"—and let me tell you—I FEEL GREAT!

I think we are in for some difficult times ahead and so it's important to have someone with experience and know-how to serve the citizens of Ward 3. I have a proven record of achievement and am running on that record. There is no question that I can do more.



THE IDEA MILL

DC history conference

The ideals, activities, and artifacts associated with the lives of "local folk" in the District of Columbia were examined recently during a two-day meeting of scholars,

students and citizens. About a dozen research papers, many slide-illustrated, focusing on the District of Columbia's local, not federal, history were presented at the Ninth Annual Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies (Feb. 12-13) at the Martin Luther King Library. Subjects included local political, labor, music, theater, community, economic, and architectural history. The chronology spanned the "pre-history" of 10,000-year old quarry activity to the present-day redevelopment of downtown Washington. Those presenting papers were primarily affiliated with local universities, but several were representing universities in New York and North Carolina.

The first day's session included well-executed and in-

teresting papers on the professional life of Washington's musicians in the late 19th century and the rise and fall of the Lafayette Square Opera House (Belasco Theater). The summer activities of many Washingtonians were cleverly integrated into the former. Unfortunately, the latter failed to address the question why no significant official opposition arose to the 1964 demolition of the Belasco Theater, a unique architectural artifact worthy of preservation.

Two research reports on early 19th century labor activity in Washington contribute a valuable beginning to a largely neglected area of local study.

The little known Community Center movement, 1915-1930, was explored in another notable research effort.

DC'S ABOLITIONISTS

James O. Horton

At 15 years of age, Ann Maria Weems was sturdy enough to be mistaken for a young boy, if properly dressed. It was vitally important that she learn to move, to stand, even to talk in a masculine yet adolescent manner if she was to make good her escape from the bondage she had known 'all her young life. Ann Maria was the slave of Charles M. Price of Rockville, Maryland, who had a lucrative slave-trading business in that area. Price was not a particularly bad master, as masters went, but one whose humanity was limited by the demands of an institution which was fundamentally inhumane. It was from this bondage that Ann Maria fled in the late fall of 1855.

Ann Maria came to Washington, D. C., as the first stop on her underground journey to freedom. Ironically, the District, seat of that nation born in liberty's name, was itself a slaveholding territory. For six weeks she lived in the District, attended by black and white abolitionists of the city, practicing a boyish manner.

It was not difficult for Ann Maria to blend into the fabric of Washington society, for it was multicolored. By mid-19th century, a quarter of Washington's forty thousand residents were black, over 2,100 of whom were slaves. It was not unusual to see slaves chained together at ankle and wrist moving about the city being imported or exported by slave traders of the District. In Alexandria, the Franklin and Armfield Company, one of the largest slave traders in the country, maintained headquarters with branch offices in New Orleans. Closer in, there were several slaveholding and trading pens in the center city, many in sight of both the White House and the Capitol. Robey's Pen at Seventh and B Streets, N. W., had been a popular spot for slave auctions, as was another pen just south of the Smithsonian at Eighth Street, S. W.



Franklin & Armfield's Slave Prison in Alexandria

After 1830, such slave trading in the District was under constant attack by northern abolitionists. The Capital was the only area in slaveholding United States where the responsibility and authority of the Federal Government was clear cut. It was, therefore, an important focus for antislavery forces. During the 1830's, the Congress was bombarded with antislavery petitions demanding that it move against slavery or at least the slave trade in the District. Congress resisted this pressure and the tireless efforts of John Quincy Adams, former President of the United States, then Senator from Massachusetts, who kept this issue before that body. Finally, the "gag rule" was evoked by the Congress at the prodding of southern slaveholding forces, and antislavery petitions were routinely tabled until the rule was revoked in the early 1840's.

Meanwhile, local antislavery forces in the District sought to move against slavery in a more conservative and, some believed, less effective program than the firebrands of New England. William Thornton, architect by trade, designer of the Capitol, and Superintendent of Patents under President James Madison, was typical in his antislavery caution. Although he favored freedom for blacks he worried about the racial antagonisms which might develop. He was not convinced that blacks were really ready for freedom and suggested that a gradual emancipation, which would include education and finally resettlement of blacks outside the District, was most desirable. Yet, tentative as they were in their condemnation of slavery, many white Washingtonians saw the inconsistency of their city being both the capital of freedom and, as the American Antislavery Society put it, "the slave market of America."

By the mid-1820's, there were no fewer than eight formally organized antislavery groups in the District. Two of these groups, the Washington Antislavery Society and the Benevolent Society of Alexandria, were instrumental in circulating and delivering to the Congressional Committee on District Affairs a petition signed by 1,060 D. C. residents calling for gradual emancipation in Washington. At the same time, Washington antislavery forces wanted no outside interference from those they considered radical abolitionists.

The conservative stance of Washington antislavery advocates pointed up the difficulty of such agitation in an area in which slavery was an active and profitable institution. Nineteenth century Washington was very much a southern town. As such, both black and white residents were limited by an atmosphere which was far less tolerant of social reform of any kind, but especially abolition, than that in Philadelphia, New York or Boston. The problem for Washingtonians was, as it continues to be, how to deal with local problems which, because D. C. is the capital, have national implications. Abolitionists farther north and pro-slavery advocates farther south viewed the District as an important arena in which the fate of slavery in America might be decided.

Although free black Washingtonians were severely restricted by "black codes" which limited the movement and activity of all people of color, and there is no evidence that blacks established formal antislavery societies such as those created by their brothers in northern cities, they were surely active in the abolitionist effort. Hester Isaacs, a free black woman, worked in the kitchens of white Washingtonians for years in order to save \$200 which she used to buy the freedom of Edward Foskey, her husband. Once freed, Edward worked as a wagoneer, and together he and Hester were able to purchase the freedom of Claire Foskey, a relative of Edwards. Leah Hooper worked for many years as a washerwoman and domestic in order to buy the freedom of her young grandson.

In their own informal ways, many free blacks such as these were effective "abolitionists." These vignettes point up one important fact about the extent of which slavery touched the lives of all blacks. White reformers pursued antislavery out of a variety of principles. For them, the fight against slavery was a theoretical position, while for almost all blacks it was a practical matter which involved the



Slave House in Washington City
Near the Smithsonian Castle

freeing of relatives and friends. Blacks in the District were all too familiar with the horrors of slavery, for they were surrounded by them. In their urgency to fight against the institution, they joined with a few more militant whites to form an effective underground railroad, which aided local slaves in their bid for freedom and conducted fugitives from further south through the city and on north.

The records of the Philadelphia underground are filled with accounts of fugitives who passed through D. C. assisted and often hidden by black and white Washingtonians, and were eventually conveyed on to the Quaker city. So it was that in the winter of 1855, one such fugitive arrived at the Philadelphia home of black abolitionist William Still. This young boy had escaped from Washington by posing as a coach driver. He had been sheltered by blacks in D. C. and aided by white Washingtonians like J. Bigelow, code name, William Penn. William Still was not at home when the fugitive arrived. Although Mrs. Still was as active as her husband in underground affairs, the fugitive had been advised before leaving D. C. not to reveal himself to anyone by William Still. True to his instructions, the boy elected to wait until Still returned before identifying himself. When Still arrived, he found his wife engaged in conversation with a young boy who it soon became clear was not a young boy at all. The fugitive had practiced the role so well that no one, not even the Stills, who were expecting a fugitive teenage girl to contact them, suspected that this young boy was in fact Ann Maria Weems. Her escape had been made possible in part by her mother, Arrah Weems, a former slave who was active on the D. C. underground railroad.

Thus, District abolitionists moved against slavery in a variety of ways, some gradually in conservative tones, others more directly as individuals or as a part of the almost invisible underground railroad. Their efforts bore fruit in 1850 when Congress outlawed slave trading in the District, and in 1862 when it abolished slavery in Washington altogether. Although conservative antislavery forces complained about the agitation of radical white and black abolitionists of the North, the Washington underground was well connected with such groups in northern cities, enabling hundreds of fugitives to move through Washington from slavery to freedom.

James O. Horton is Associate Professor of History and American Civilization at George Washington University. This article is reprinted from 'Humanities,' the newsletter of the DC Community Humanities Council. Photos courtesy Columbia Historical Society and Leigh Mosely.

The democratic elections, segregation, extensive activities, and the role of President Woodrow Wilson's daughter, Margaret, associated with this movement were discussed in depth.

Four archeological investigations completed the first session of the conference. These investigations were a most appropriate introduction to the second day's session, which was concerned with citizen efforts to preserve Rhodes Tavern and establish downtown historic districts. The archeological findings reveal the industry of Washington's lost aboriginal inhabitants, 19th century mill activity along Rock Creek, the architecture and artifacts of an early Freedman's Bureau settlement in Anacostia, and pre-Civil War urban family life uncovered by digs on the downtown Washington convention center site, dramatically completed a day, if not hours, prior to construction excavation.

In remarks introducing the Rhodes Tavern research study, Professor John Pearce, of George Washington University, observed that the word history never appears on the form used to nominate a building to the National Register of Historic Places. Professor Pearce, a former Maryland preservation official, added that a federal body called the Commission of Fine Arts, noted for its disinterest in local history, often has the first crack at recommending whether a historic place in the District of Columbia should be preserved or demolished.

Nelson Rimensnyder, a committee research historian with the U.S. House of Representatives, opened his presentation with a statement that the facts known about Rhodes Tavern support the conclusion that Oliver T. Carr, Jr. now controls the fate of "the most important historic place in private ownership in downtown, if not within the entire old City of Washington."

Historian Rimensnyder's research establishes Rhodes Tavern, circa 1799, as the City of Washington's first town hall and the site of early citizen political and community meetings.

Commenting on Rimensnyder's research and the projected demolition of Rhodes Tavern, Kathleen Gilbert of the Baltimore Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, said that it would be a damaging precedent applicable nationwide, for justifying the unnecessary demolition of buildings that possess unique historic value, but may lack outstanding architectural merit.

Ms. Gilbert also observed that the civic pride of Baltimoreans of all backgrounds and well established city-wide press support for preservation would preclude the demolition of any building of Rhodes Tavern's historic significance in Baltimore. She then documented that contention with several recent case histories of preservation in that city.

Maryland and Baltimore historic preservation officials attending the conference were appalled to learn that the Washington Post has editorially supported the unnecessary, economically unjustified, demolition of Rhodes Tavern. This stand was taken by the Post even before public debate began on the issue.

Participants asked how they could help save Rhodes Tavern on its historic site. They were told to write Mr. Coy Eklund, President of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, a major financial backer of Oliver T. Carr and Michael Ainslie, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, urging them to intercede with Carr on behalf of Rhodes Tavern. Supporters were also urged to write Mayor Marion Barry reminding him of his 1978 campaign pledge to save Rhodes Tavern.

The second day's session ended with a discussion of the downtown building surveys conducted by citizen volunteers under the auspices of Don't Tear It Down, a local preservation organization. These surveys have resulted in the submission of applications to the Joint Committee on Landmarks for downtown historic district designations, a move strongly opposed by the administration of Mayor Marion Barry and certain elements of the business and development community. On-site tours of the Fifteenth Street Financial Historic District and proposed districts were also available at the final session.

A regular Friday evening feature of the conference, the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture, was delivered at the Heurich Mansion, home of the Columbia Historical Society. Following a reception, Peter H. Wood, professor of history at Duke University, spoke on "Winslow Homer and the Currents of Black History."

These annual local history conferences, free to the public, are sponsored by George Washington University and the Columbia Historical Society. For more information on this year's research topics and participation in future conferences, contact Perry Fisher at the Society (785-2068).

This article was written by a participant at the conference.

The D.C. Public Library has received an \$18,000 matching grant from the D.C. Community Humanities Council to establish an Oral History Research Center.

The center will be located in the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library. It will serve as a clearinghouse for information about oral history projects being conducted throughout the city and collect tapes and transcripts when possible.

The center also will conduct workshops and prepare publications to provide information to librarians and interested citizens who are considering oral history projects.

Roxanna Dean, Chief of the Washingtoniana Division, is the project director. Marcia Greenlee, an historian who has been active in the field of oral history, will be chief consultant.

Persons interested in oral history or who know of projects may call the Washingtoniana Division, 727-1213.

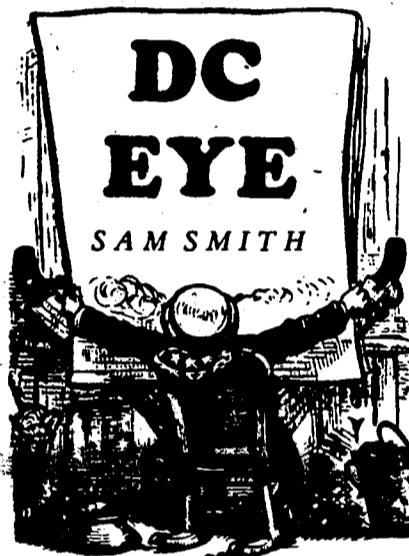
The Paycock Press announces the publication of *D.C. Magazines: A Literary Retrospective*, edited by Richard Peabody. This anthology is the first work to collect

poetry, prose, and graphics originally published in three major post-War Washington magazines: Caresse Crosby's *Portfolio* (1945-48), William F. Claire's *Voyages* (1967-73), and Merrill Leffler and Neil Lehrman's *Dryad* (1967-78).

The contributors include major literary figures from across the nation, such as Anais Nin, Henry Miller, Charles Bukowski, Gwendolyn Brooks, Pablo Picasso, Robert Lax, Jorge Luis Borges, Thomas Merton, Pablo Neruda, Mark Van Doren, Theodore Roethke, Joyce Carol Oates, and many others. Also featured are interviews with the editors and the most complete bibliography of Washington literary magazines ever compiled.

"I am a D.C. native," stated Mr. Peabody. "As a result of publishing my own magazine, *Gargoyle*, I wanted to learn about Washington's literary traditions. *D.C. Magazines: A Literary Retrospective* is the culmination of three years of intensive research. I feel all the work in putting together this anthology was justified because it documents our city's recent literary history."

Publication date for the limited paperback edition is set for May 15. 638-7800.



Fallen arch

After the Fine Arts Commission made a fool of itself by approving that grotesque and fascistic navy memorial arch for the south end of 8th Street, there was fear that citizens would have to engage in another of those time consuming battles, a la Rhodes Tavern, to knock a little sense into the city's planners. This time, however, at least part of the establishment split off from the city's official aestheticians, and the arch, at presstime, if not dead was at least in trouble. The national landmarks committee had called it a "grandiose architectural expression" that would overwhelm nearby historic buildings, and the National Capital Planning Commission staff called it "inappropriate." The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Commission, faced with such eminent opposition, temporarily withdrew its plans for the arch and talked of a compromise. Typically, the PADC was reported at month's end to be working on its idea of a compromise -- an even bigger and taller arch, spurred on by Fine Arts chair J. Carter Brown's suggestion that the planned arch looked a little scrawny. Enlarging the monstrosity should merely increase opposition to the whole scheme, so there is considerable hope that the peculiar tastes of the PADC and J. Carter Brown will not prevail.

§

In view of police chief Turner's plan to form a special squad to go after repeat offenders, a story from the Boston Globe bears mention. In Massachusetts's Norfolk County, a two-year experiment using a Career Criminal Unit has, according to the Globe, "shown strikingly that a well-organized and carefully targeted effort can produce dramatic results in getting professional criminals off the streets." In fact, the program won convictions on 93% of its prosecutions and more than 92% of those convicted actually went to jail. The program operated on two principles that have not been notably observed in DC: (1) repeat juvenile offenders should not be considered a class apart from adult offenders and (2) the cases of the professional criminals should be given priority.

One study has found that 15 percent of the urban male criminal population are between 14 and 20, have been arrested more than six times and are responsible for 85 percent of the serious crime. Said ex-McGovern strategist Richard Stearns, who was project director: "Juvenile crime, unless of the magnitude of a life felony, is more or less tolerated by the state. The system organizes its penalty structure in almost flagrant disregard of what we know about criminals."

The program permitted no plea bargaining on the most serious charge in each case, the caseloads of prosecutors were reduced and jail was recommended in almost every case. Reports the Globe's writer, Robert L. Turner, "The result was a startling record of success, and one that did not cost appreciably more than the average system of prosecutions, with repeated delays, costs."

Sadly, but perhaps not surprisingly, the program was terminated last fall when the Massachusetts state legislature declined to fund it any longer.

Slighting Irish

[Along about St. Patrick's Day last month, we received the following from local historian Nelson Rimensnyder]:

Occasionally, on St. Patrick's Day, Dublin-born architect James Hoban is remembered in the Nation's Capital

for designing, building and rebuilding the White House. Sometimes even his brief superintendence of the construction of the Capitol is mentioned. But little is said of Hoban's remarkable forty years as a citizen of the City of Washington.

After Congress withdrew the local franchise in 1801, Hoban and others met at Rhodes Tavern to petition Congress for voting representation and a locally elected government. Congress responded with a city charter in 1802 providing for a twelve-member elected council. Hoban was elected to that first council and reelected annually until his death at 73 in 1831, a record thirty-year tenure. He was survived by seven children.

Hoban was a leader in the establishment of Washington's first public schools in 1806, first public market, and theater. An organizer of the local militia, he served as a captain of artillery.

A founding member of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church (10th & G NW) in 1794, Hoban soon became a leader of Washington's early Irish-American community of laborers and craftsmen who came to the United States to build the new capital city. Scarce housing, high prices, and needed social services prompted Hoban to organize the Society of the Sons of Erin to help these early Irish-born Washingtonians. Social, cultural and charitable activities were primary purposes of the Society which, according to contemporary newspaper accounts, met regularly at Rhodes Tavern after 1800.

To commemorate St. Patrick's Day, the society encouraged the wearing of shamrocks. As early as 1802, one Washingtonian wrote that "the Sons of Erin can be seen wearing shamrocks on their hats as they walk about the City on the 17th of March."

§

Our mailbag

Dipping into the Gazette mailbag: From the Potomac Alliance (PO Box 9306, DC 20005) comes a sticker which reads: "FLASH! BOOM! YOU'RE DEAD!!! A small nuclear bomb explodes over the White House. Standing here, you have a 98% chance of dying immediately, from leveled buildings, intense heat, lethal radiation, or debris flying at 500 mph." PA members have been plastering the stickers within a two mile radius of the White House, which includes Georgetown, Adams Morgan, Capitol Hill and Howard University. From Tilden Press (1737 DeSales St. NW, Suite 300, DC 20036) comes a new hardback: "The RIF Survival Handbook: How to Manage Your Money if You're Unemployed." The book, written by financial consultant John May, combines common-sense budgeting advice with tips on how to take advantage of a variety of tax and unemployment benefits, as well as activities that can maximize income and personal satisfaction while looking for a new job. You can get the book at bookstores or for \$4.95 plus \$1 handling from Tilden Press. And the AFGE has a nifty button (see

photo) suggesting who they forgot to RIF. You can get these for \$2 each from the AFGE, 1325 Mass. Ave. NW, Suite 501, DC 20005.



§

By the time you receive this issue, we should be in the middle of Ground Zero Week, which runs through April 25. The week is a national event designed to educate and involve the American people on the issue of nuclear war. After the week is over, programs will continue. To find out more, call 783-6254.

§

The opening of the Red Line to Van Ness-UDC has failed to produce the rider bonanza Metro anticipated. Metro says, "Ridership at the three new stations was about 16,000 a day, as projected, but there were declines elsewhere on the system." In other words, another example of Metro's policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Total transit ridership for the first six months of this fiscal year showed only a slight increase over the same period last year. You can't, however, say that Metro isn't trying to get people on the subway. Connecticut Avenue bus service has become abominable since the subway extension opened. The Post, for once, allowed space to a critic of Metro last month, albeit only on the extra op-ed page, neatly balanced by an article saying damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead. The ex-op-ed piece criticizing Metro was written by John Torbet, president of the Arlington County Taxpayers Assn. In it he points out that the total construction cost of Metro will be equal to more than \$11,000 for each household in the whole region, this for a system that handles only about ten to 12 percent of the daily people movement. As has been suggested here in the past, Torbet suggests cutting the system off at 65 to 70 miles. Even the pro-article admits that "Metro's escalating costs constitute the fastest growing line item in local budgets. How localities meet this financial challenge promises to be one of the principal local issues throughout this decade." It's not, however, a matter of concern to those developers and speculators who have received an estimated \$2 billion in windfall land profits as a result of Metro. The authors of the pro-article estimate this windfall (although of course they don't call it that) will amount to additional \$5 billion if Metro is completed. Meanwhile, DC, in order to provide the "stable and reliable source" of funding for Metro required by the federal government deficits has now officially committed itself to use the following taxes to

keep Metro afloat: the motor vehicle excise tax; the eight percent sales tax on restaurant meals and liquor by the drink; the eight percent tax on vehicle and trailer rentals; motor vehicle registration fees; the ten percent tax on transient accommodations; the gasoline gallonage tax; the twelve percent tax on parking; traffic fines and parking meter fees, and the personal property taxes paid by businesses. That's \$125 million for fiscal year 1983.

§

Mark your calendars for the fourth annual DC Special Olympics Dance Marathon, which will be held June 5-6 at the Marvin Center Cafeteria, 800 21st St. NW. Last year there were some 285 dancers who raised over \$30,000 for the Special Olympics. The only requirement of the marathon is that each dancer must obtain a minimum of \$10 in pledges to the DC Special Olympics for each hour he or she intends to dance. If we programmed our computer right, that means that last year each dancer twirled, twisted and discoed an average of 10.53 hours. There are prizes for winning contestants, food and drink, and a visit from the Washington Redskins cheerleaders.

School tie

These are hard days on the humanities front, so local humanists might want to keep in mind that new chair of the NEH, William Bennett, is a graduate of Gonzaga. If all else fails, write "Beat St. John's" at the bottom of your proposal.

§

A Virginia apartment complex ran an ad in the Post showing a couple happily playing Scrabble, with the caption, "Maybe we'll get married, maybe we won't -- but it's a good investment." After a number of angry subscribers told the Post that it's illegal for unmarried couples to live together in Virginia, the ad was pulled, and the developer, denying he wanted to promote lascivious behavior, promises to marry off the couple in future ads.

§

One of the unwritten rules of urban politics is that you don't get the fire department involved in politics. The police department, okay, but not the fire department. Last month's rhubarb over the resignation of Chief Norman Richardson suggests, at the very least, that Marion Barry and Baby Rogers don't believe in the rule. In fact, there is a strong suggestion that city administrator Rogers injected himself into the affairs of the department more than is traditional and as one source told the Washington Post, Richardson "couldn't have the respect of his men when Rogers was making all the decisions." Although the Post referred to Richardson's handling of the affair at a "4-alarm Tantrum," William Mould, president of the DC Fire Fighters Association, a sometime critic of Richardson, points out, "What would cause such a quiet, soft-spoken and sensitive man to raise such a flap on his departure? It was surely not characteristic of the chief's normal

demeanor, and we are confident that he had no such intent. Perhaps when a sincere, sensitive and truly dedicated public servant can finally tolerate no more frustration, he has no choice."

§

Wrecking Rec

Between 1980 and 1982, the District reduced the number of recreation workers by 42%. No other DC agency suffered so severe a cutback. As a

result, some recreation facilities have been closed completely; those remaining open have many fewer staff and much shorter hours. Every program of the Department of Recreation has been hurt. The Roving Leader Program is half its former size. Swimming pools, not closed for lack of repair, are now opened later into summer and closed earlier. Maintenance and repair efforts are inadequate. Every program in every neighborhood has been hurt by these cutbacks. At 1980 funding levels, there would be 750 recreation workers. This year, the mayor and city council approved only 443 workers. The only

justification they produced was the need to reduce the District's deficit. This mind you, even in the wake of the city announcing a \$68 million surplus.

The DC Recreation Council is attempting to get people aroused about the screwing of the Recreation Department by the Barry administration. If you would like to get involved call Martha Queen at 488-1074 or Joel Garner at 966-6706. You can write Garner at 5201 Sherrier Place NW, DC 20016.

§

**FREE
PARKING**

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Metropolitan Washington is seeking women and minorities interested in construction industry careers for anticipated apprenticeship openings this spring and summer.

ABC is building a pool of people interested in entering one of six apprenticeship training programs, for referral to the association's participating firms. Apprenticeships are offered in the bricklaying, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, air conditioning/refrigeration, and sheet metal trades.

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and find employment in the trade of their choice receive on-the-job training during a normal work week on a construction site. In addition, apprentices attend training classes two evenings each week during the school year, where, under the guidance of certified instructors, they learn the theory and mechanics required by the trade they have chosen.

Interested persons may apply for the apprenticeship

training program in the ABC office, 912 Thayer Avenue, Suite 302, Silver Spring.

We of the Visiting Nurse Association have concerns for our patients that go beyond the professional services we provide. We are concerned that our elderly forgetful patients are not taking their medication. We worry about the effects of depression on our homebound patients who live alone. We hope that the family member who has the twenty-four hour burden of care for a loved one is not undermining his or her own health. We want our terminally ill patients and their families to have an adequate emotional support system.

To meet some of these needs, the V.N.A. has an office of Volunteer Services. Our volunteers are offering companionship and respite in the homes of our chronically or terminally ill patients, and helping us in our busy offices.

We are a private, non-profit home health agency providing professional services in the District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. If you wish to become a part of our team, please call Gail Her-

rick, Coordinator of Volunteers. 387-7333. Training sessions are offered.

Over the past eight years, the faculty at the child development center, department of pediatrics, Georgetown University Medical Center, has been assessing and treating a variety of feeding problems occurring during infancy, childhood and adolescence. A team has been developed to present a unified approach for treating the medical, nutritional and psychological aspects of eating disorders in children.

The team consists of a nutritionist, behavioral psychologist and pediatrician. At the first appointment, the child is assessed by all three. A treatment plan then is developed and discussed with the family and patient. Depending on the medical status and severity of the problem, an inpatient or outpatient treatment program is recommended.

The special interests of the team include anorexia nervosa, behavioral feeding problems, nutritional needs of the chronically ill child, failure to thrive, and childhood obesity. For further information or to schedule an appointment, call 625-7430.

A committee is now trying to contact any 1932 graduate of Eastern High School. Will any graduate or any one having information concerning a graduate please call Joseph Pusateri, 362-3393, or Ernie Lyons, 528-8195?

§

The Washington Area Committee on Poland, in conjunction with American Workers and Artists for Solidarity, will be holding a teach-in on April 21 to discuss the background of the current crisis in Poland. The event will be held in the sanctuary of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, at the corner of 16th & Newton NW. Featured speakers will include Warsaw-born Daniel Singer, author of the "Road to Gansk," a first-hand account of the Polish movement. Paul Robeson Jr. will discuss the political lessons of the events in Poland for the progressive movement. Joclyn Williams, president of the DC Central Labor Council, will speak on the importance of Solidarity's struggle to American labor. The organizers say that their teach-in "will present a perspective on support for Polish workers different from that of the Reagan Administration, which hypocritically lauds Solidarnosc while opposing worker's movements at home and throughout the Americas."

§

Executive Director, DC Common Cause. Part time: min 20/hours week. Must be DC resident and interested in CC issues. \$6500 per year plus benefits. Resumes to PO Box 19259, Washington, DC 20036.

§

A national conference sponsored by UDC on the theme, "Education and Human Ecology: Reflections and Predictions" on April 28-May 1, at the Van Ness and Georgia/Havard campuses. 3 pm April 28. All day on April 29 and 30. Exhibits and city tours on Saturday May 1. Info: 673-7139.

§

Georgetown University Medical Center is offering training in CPR at various times throughout April, May and June. For registration and information call 625-3838.

§

All alumni of the University of DC and its predecessor schools are invited to participate in class reunion activities May 6-8. Info: 282-7431.

§

The Cooperative Extension Service at UDC is selling a soil testing kit at \$4 each. Info: 282-7400.

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CITY LOG

A Census Bureau study shows that the percentage of District employees per 10,000 population is below the median for eight comparable U.S. cities. The study was requested by Mayor Barry.

Of eight Atlantic seaboard and midwestern cities studied, using employment figures for October 1980, the District was fifth from the top in the ratio of employees to population. The District had 650.8 employees per 10,000 population. The city with the highest ratio was Newark with 903.3. The eight-city average was 662.1.

The study was conducted using a formula which included state, county and other employees who carry out functions for the other cities which are carried out by the District government. The District government includes many functions which are performed by states and other jurisdictions elsewhere in the nation. The study also excluded from its calculations employees in other cities who perform functions not carried out by District government.

The Department of Insurance has required three major insurance companies to reduce proposed rate increases for automobile insurance. The action will result in three quarters of a million dollars in savings for District policyholders.

The largest portion of the savings, \$545,000, resulted from the department's ruling requiring Allstate Insurance Company to withdraw a proposed 18.5 percent increase which was to have gone into effect on December 21. The department approved a 9.9 percent increase effective February 22.

The department also required the Criterion Insurance Company to reduce its proposed increase from 6.7 percent to 4.2 percent, a relative savings of \$87,000. Although the Department of Insurance issued an order upholding a 4.2 percent increase implemented by GEICO on December 21, 1981, a relative savings of \$142,000 resulted because the department had previously required GEICO to withdraw a 4.7 percent increase which would have been implemented on November 16. This was the first increase by GEICO in over two years.

The Aquatics Program of the D.C. Department of Recreation is recruiting lifeguards for employment in its 1982 summer swim program. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.

To qualify, applicants must be at least age 16, have a current valid American Red Cross water safety instructor or advanced lifesaving certificate, and pass the department's practical test. Individuals who have not been certified, but who are strong swimmers, may submit applications and seek certification with department assistance.

Lifeguards work 40 hours a week, which may be extended over six working days. Applicants should be available to work from June 23 through August 31. The pay rate is \$4.35 to \$4.74 per hour, depending on the degree of skill.

Information: 576-6436.

More than 60 percent of the residents of Washington, D.C., are not sure whether the fatal crash of the Air Florida jet leaving National Airport in January will affect their use of the Washington airport.

Twenty percent say the crash will affect their use of the airport, and 20 percent say it will have no effect.

These results are drawn from The American University D.C. Poll, a telephone survey of 240 residents of the District of Columbia taken February 22-23.

Those surveyed were also asked if they felt National Airport to be as safe as most other major airports in the country. Some 38 percent said yes, 26 percent said no, and 36 percent were undecided.

Councilmember John Ray has filed the necessary petitions to present D.C. voters with a ballot question on the issue of mandatory minimum prison sentences for those convicted of violent firearms crimes or large-scale drug trafficking.

The petitions, submitted to the Board of Elections, contain the signatures of approximately 22,000 D.C. registered voters, well over the number required by the District's rules for citizens initiatives.

The ballot question will allow voters to approve or disapprove a measure which would require judges to impose prison sentences of at least five years for a first-offense conviction of using a firearm to commit a violent

crime. Second offenders would be sentenced to a minimum of 10 years in prison.

For convicted drug traffickers, the measure would require prison sentences ranging from one to four years, depending on the classification of the drug. Heroin dealers would get the four-year sentence, while those convicted of selling cocaine or amphetamines would get shorter terms.

The mandatory sentencing provisions would apply to those convicted of manufacturing or distributing controlled drugs or possessing such drugs with the intent to manufacture or distribute. It would not apply to those convicted of possessing illegal drugs for personal use. Simple possession would remain a misdemeanor under D.C. law.

The measure also would allow the courts to waive the mandatory sentencing requirement in the case of first offenders who were selling drugs primarily to support their own addiction.

The measure would ban suspended sentences, probation or parole for those subject to the mandatory minimum prison terms.

Property owners in the District have received their assessment notices and a study by Citizens for Fair Assessment of the 1982 assessments reveals what they should expect in the way of inaccurate assessments.

For the third year CFA has done a statistical review

of the assessments and our examination shows among other things that:

- A DC homeowner has only a one-in-three chance of being assessed accurately (i.e. within 10% of the value).
- Again in 1982, lower priced properties tended to be overassessed and higher priced properties tended to be underassessed—giving a tax break to those who need it least.
- Only six out of fifty-six assessment neighborhoods had a better than 50% accuracy rating on the residences assessed.
- There was a tendency to overassess single family residences and underassess condominiums—giving a tax break to condo owners at the expense of single family home owners.
- Old City #2 (Logan Circle area) had the worse assessment figures, with only slightly better than one-in-four properties being accurately assessed. A home owner in Old City #2 had over a 50% chance of being overassessed.
- Approximately one-third of the residential property was overassessed, one-third underassessed, and one-third correct—creating a “balancing effect” that makes the sum total of assessments appear acceptable.
- There was improvement in the assessment equity between 1980 and 1982. For the 1980 assessment there was only a one-in-four chance a property

The C&P Telephone Company reached an agreement last month with the DC People's Counsel that could result in a 20 percent increase in phone rates -- if the proposal is approved by the Public Service Commission. C&P initially had sought a 60% increase in rates.

§

Pepco last month filed for a 17.8% increase in rates. In this case, the Peoples Counsel, Brian Lederer, attacked the proposal saying, "The only reason for filing it is because they are big spenders -- out of control."

§

The Redevelopment Land Agency last month took away the option of Oliver Carr and Theodore Hagans to develop the Metro Center site following a long dispute over the amount of money to be paid for the site. Carr said he would file a law suit. The would-be developers and the RLA were about \$15 million apart in negotiations over the 3.7 acre site. RLA's resolution to stick to the higher price came in the wake of criticisms of the agency's past willingness to sell off property well below market value. RLA can now either readvertise the site or renew dealings with development teams that lost out in the original bidding.

§

Mayor Barry signed the city's FY 1983 budget of \$1.89 billion despite early threats to veto it. At issue was \$11.6 million in new spending the council added without specifying the revenue source. Councilmembers maintained that the mayor was being too cautious in his revenue projections.

§

June 1 is the deadline for applications for the annual homestead property tax exemption. Qualified property owners who file this form by the deadline are eligible for the lowest of three real property tax rates and do not pay any taxes on the first \$9000 of assessed value -- meaning about \$400 in taxes saved. Forms have been mailed to potentially eligible persons, but if you are the owner-occupant of singly family home or a building with five or fewer units and did not receive this form, you should contact the city right away. Call 727-6447.

§

Feminists are invited to an April 27, 7:30 pm meeting of the Women's Pentagon Action at 1940 Calvert St. The meeting will be concerned with a number of feminist and anti-militarist issues within the DC community, such as organizing a DC feminist presence at the June 12 Second Session on Disarmament rally in New York. Call Teresita, 822-9449, days, or Lori, 528-0658, evenings for information.

§

Although the Old Post Office won't reopen until this fall, Don't Tear It Down is hosting a reception at the building on May 12 from 6 to 8 pm. Arthur Cotton Moore, who is responsible for the renovation of the office area, will speak and conduct tours of the fifth floor offices of the Postmaster General. Charles Evans, the developer, will also speak. Tickets are \$10 and available from Don't Tear It Down, 930 F St. NW, Suite 715, DC 20004. Info: 737-1519.

§

The city council's committee of the whole meets on the FY 1982 budget supplemental on April 27 in the council chambers. Copies of the proposed supplemental request are available at the council's legislative unit and at public libraries.

would be correctly assessed. For 1982 it went up to a one-in-three chance.

Supporting Subscriptions

In some European countries, small circulation political and alternative journals keep going with the aid of supporting subscribers who contribute a sum in addition to the normal subscription fee to aid the publication in its work. You will note on your renewal form that there is such a category. We hope you will indicate your support of our efforts by subscribing at the supporting rate of \$15 a year rather than the normal \$5. This will allow us not only to continue as an advocacy journal, but to carry on various activities which, while desirable, are not particularly cost-effective e.g. reaching public officials and groups that might not otherwise subscribe, subsidizing subscriptions for prisoners and low-income persons, and serving as a resource for groups and individuals seeking social change. We hope you will become a supporting subscriber when you renew, which, incidentally, you can do right now by sending us \$15 and a sample of your mailing label. Mail to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Thank you.

THE REGION

There are nearly 95,000 condominium units in the Washington area -- an increase between July 1980 and July 1981 of 14%. Latest figures from the Council of Governments show that during that time, 11,500 units were added to the area's condo inventory and almost two-thirds of these were rental units converted to condo use. A COG assessment of the effect of condo conversions on the area's supply of rental housing indicates that DC, Arlington, Fairfax City and Rockville may have lost rental housing over the last decade while the region as a whole actually gained more than 11,000 rental units.

A new report from the Council of Governments on the 1980 census shows that number of school-age children in the region dropped 16 percent in the 1970s while the number of persons 65 and over jumped 32 percent. According to COG's John McClain, "Many of the characteristics prevalent in the district of Columbia and the close-in suburbs in 1970 now exists in much of the region. Small households, single-parent families and the number of divorced or separated persons all increased significantly in the region."

A workshop on "Making Energy Conservaton Pay for Itself" will be held May 5 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The workshop will cover fundamentals of energy financing for local governments, how to finance energy conservation in multifamily residential buidings, financing a large-scale energy project and financing conservation in industrial, commercial, municipal and non-profit buildings. To find out more about the workshop call Yolanda Monroe at 223-6800.

